



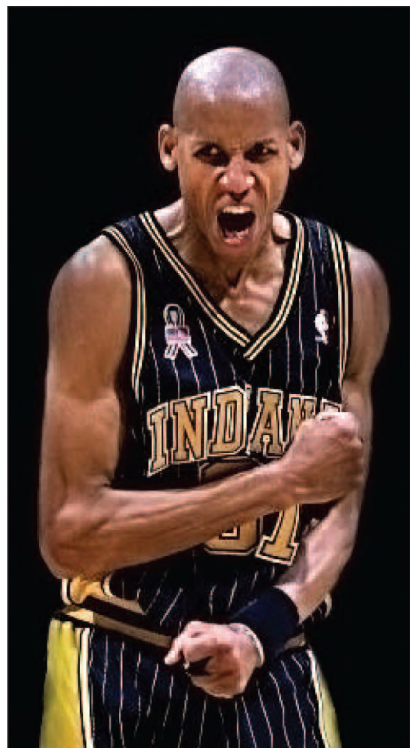
Preparing a conscious community today and beyond

Drugs in the workplace, Page D1

# The Indianapolis Recorder

INDIANA'S GREATEST WEEKLY NEWSPAPER

Volume 110 ■ Number 07 ■ Since 1895 ■ FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2005 ■ www.indianapolisrecorder.com ■ Four Sections ■ 75¢



Indiana Pacer Reggie Miller recently announced that he'll retire at the end of the season after 18 years in the NBA. See page D8 as The Recorder looks back on his career.

## NEWS BRIEFS

**Addressing Black Hoosiers concerns**  
The African American Coalition presents the 2005 Indiana Black Legislative Caucus forum. The forum will address community concerns and talk about how current bills in legislation affects Hoosiers. The event will be held at the Indianapolis Urban League, 777 Indiana Ave., on Feb. 23 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. The forum is free and open to the public.

**Mayor names new crime lab director**  
Mayor Bart Peterson has appointed Indiana State Police Lt. Colonel Michael Medler to serve as director of the Indianapolis-Marion County forensic services agency, the city and county's crime lab. A nationwide search had been conducted to find a director for the lab. Medler most recently served in ISP's Bureau of Criminal Investigations, where he oversaw criminal investigations, gaming, and the laboratory division and served as a crime scene investigator. He also was involved in the development of the State of Indiana Forensic and Health Sciences Laboratory scheduled to open in 2006. Medler will begin serving as director on Feb. 21.

**Community to address abduction concerns**  
The Coalition of Northeast Neighborhoods (C.N.N.) Weed and Seed Initiative in partnership with the Indianapolis Police East District, the Marion County Prosecutor's Office and Indy Parks Department will sponsor "Leave My Child Alone!" on Thursday, February 24, 2005 from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. at Washington Park Family Center located at 3130 E. 30th Street. Expert speakers in child safety will inform and instruct children and parents, along with a personal safety video being shown, interactive role-playing will be done, free identification kits will be given and a lot of information provided.

► See BRIEFS, Page A2

**Got a hot news tip? Want to be heard?**  
If you would like to report any news or share your comments, call the Recorder News Hotline at (317) 924-5143 ext 300

## Legislation calls for user fees instead of taxes to fund public safety

BY BRANDON A. PERRY  
Staff Writer

If a new bill up for consideration in the Indiana House of Representatives becomes law, citizens who are assisted by emergency personnel will have to pay fees. Under House Bill 1614 local governments will be able to impose user fees on property owners for public safety services that are offered in residential areas including police officers, firefighters, ambulance services, emergency medical services and emergency action. The fees would be based on a flat charge for each lot or building a person owns, amount of emergency services used, relative risk to emergency personnel and whether a city or town purchases or leases emergency services. The legislation is currently scheduled for consideration by the House Ways and Means Committee. State Rep. James Buck, R-Kokomo, author of HB 1614, said the proposal is part of a necessary effort to reduce burdensome property tax rates imposed on the state's homeowners.

"I have long been an advocate of property tax reform and elimination. All the legislation I have introduced this year centers on breaking property taxes up in the areas of welfare, public safety, local government and public education. Public safety definitely has its roots to property, so being able to convert from an ad valorem system to a user type fee made more sense to me." The bill would reduce property tax rates by about \$1.3 billion and theoretically, the void left by the absence of that revenue would be filled by the user fees. According to the bill, the fees would have to be set at a rate that can pay all expenses for delivery of public safety services and provide a fund that can be used for making improvements and additions to services. Buck said it will be up to local jurisdictions to determine how the user fees should be assessed, whether that involves charging per emergency run or through a levy spread out over an entire district that's being served.

► See FEES, Page A4

## Earned Income Tax Credit assists low-to-moderate families

By ERICKA C. WHEELER  
Staff Writer

"The best anti-poverty, the best pro-family, the best job creation measure to come out of Congress." That quote describes former President Ronald Reagan's views on the often-overlooked Earned Income Tax Credit (EIC). Each year during the tax season, community leaders, tax preparers, churches and business leaders are out promoting the importance of claiming the EIC. The EIC is a credit available for low to moderate income working families or individuals. Unfortunately, thousands of qualifying Hoosiers, who file their taxes annually, fail to claim the EIC. "The fat cats and the big boys have their tax advisors and wealth coaches to point out tax breaks, save them money and help them benefit," Congresswoman Julia Carson, D-Ind., said about claiming the credit. EIC provides a federal re-

turn that gives back a taxpayer a portion or all of funds withheld throughout the year. No matter the amount of time of employment, if you worked only one month in a course of a year, you may still qualify for EIC. EIC return amounts are based on an individual or a married couple's total income amounts. For example, if an individual has raised a child for a half-a-year or more and has an income level of \$30,338 or less (\$31,338 for married workers) then you may be eligible for \$2,604 extra on your returns. For two children, the maximum amount of children able to claim on the credit will bring back an amount of \$4,300. For working individuals who have not raised a child for six months or more during the previous year and have made \$11,490 or less may receive an extra \$390 in return. "A lot of people are unfamiliar with the credit because some of these workers are not used to even making enough to file their taxes and overlook the credit," said

Lee Posey, senior policy specialist for the National Conference of State Legislatures. "Part of it is just educating people on the importance of filing." If a worker has raised a son, daughter, stepchild, grandchild, adopted child, brother, sister, stepbrother or sister or descendants of such relatives may be able to claim the child to acquire the funds that come with the EIC. A qualifying child must be under the age of 19, or under 24 if the child is a full time student or totally or permanently disabled. Each dependent must have a valid Social Security number that has been registered before Dec. 31, 2004. Since so many low-income working Hoosiers missed out on claiming the EIC credit for 2003, political officials and a host of community organizations are out educating the community. During the 2003 tax year the federal government delivered \$36 billion to low-income family

► See EIC Page A2

## Former judge will become Indiana's new civil rights chief

BY BRANDON A. PERRY  
Staff Writer

Gov. Mitch Daniels' latest high-level appointment involves an agency that plays a crucial role in ensuring that Indiana's minority community has equal opportunity and equal access. During a press conference this week the governor announced that Gregory Kellam Scott, a former justice of the Colorado Supreme Court, will serve as the next executive director of the Indiana Civil Rights Commission. "I am anxious to serve the people of Indiana in leading us to where we should be in the area of civil rights," Scott said. The governor expressed confidence in his decision to name Scott to a position that has been under close watch by African Americans since the November election. "I'll work closely with the new executive director to strengthen our outreach on civil rights issues and increase opportunities for all our citizens." From 1993 to 2000 Scott served on the Colorado State



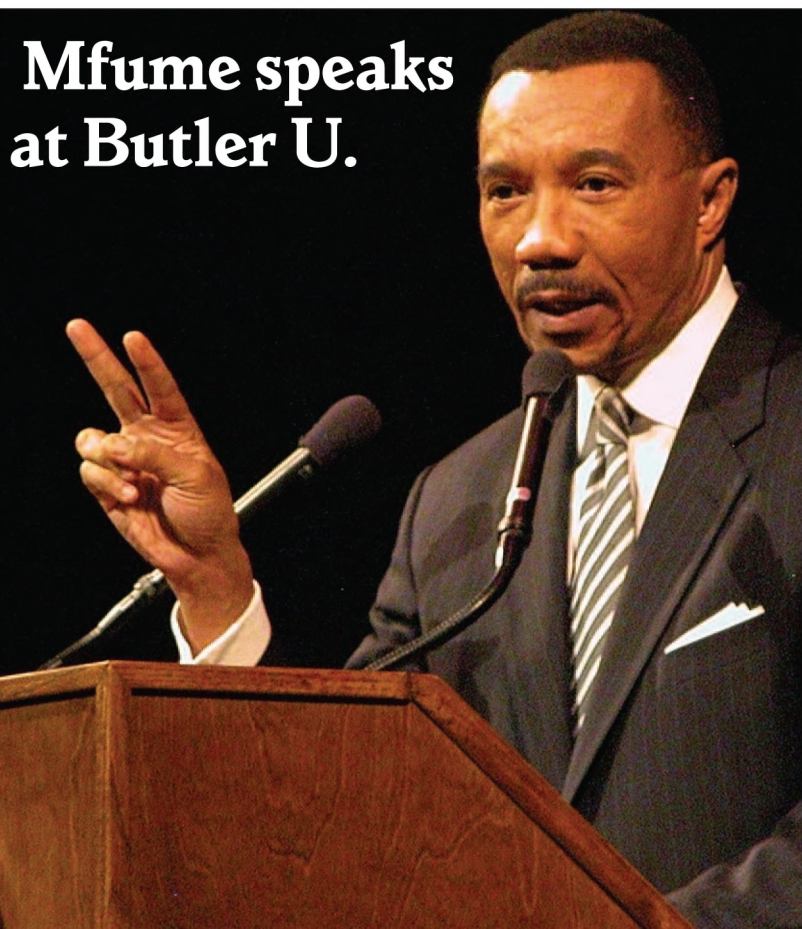
Gregory Kellam Scott

Supreme Court, the first African American to hold that position. He authored more than 100 majority court opinions and administered the admission of new attorneys. Before his appointment on the court he was a professor of law at the University of Colorado. Scott has indicated that among his top concerns are economic development, employment, edu-

cation and operating a commission that is assessable to citizens. When his tenure officially begins next week, he'll succeed Sandra D. Leek, an attorney from Gary and appointee of the late Gov. Frank O'Bannon who was credited by many as someone who raised the commission's profile. The main purpose of the Indiana Civil Rights Commission is to investigate allegations of discrimination and administer laws designed to provide equal opportunity in employment, education, housing, credit and public housing. Scott will run the day-to-day affairs of the commission, which reports to a seven member supervisory commission appointed by the governor. "My first six months is going to involve hearing what the commission and citizens who served by the commission want to accomplish," said Scott. "I will also be speaking with Sandra Leek, who is a friend of mine, and learn from her the matters that she believes should be provided with some attention." During his first full interview

► See CHIEF, Page A2

## Mfume speaks at Butler U.



Kweisi Mfume, former president of the NAACP, recently spoke at Butler University's Celebration of Diversity Distinguished Lecture Series. Mfume addressed a packed crowd at Clowes Memorial Hall about exploring America's agenda and racism. (Photo/J. Hurst)

## Black History Concert



Thomas Wilkins serves as the guest conductor for the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra's 20th annual Celebration of Black History Concert at the Hilbert Circle Theatre.



Violinist Tai Murray performs during the symphony. Murray, at the age of 21, has already performed across the country and in Europe.



Lawrence Clark conducts Grandpa's Children of Rhythm, a program at Flanner House that teaches children music and life skills. See more photos on page A7. (Photos/J. Holman)





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National Association of Colored Women's Clubs, Inc.  
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Mrs. Edwards, Monique Edwards (Queen),  
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## EIC

► Continued from Page 1

workers.

"The Indianapolis Asset Building Campaign helps bring valuable advice to those who work but have low incomes," Rep. Carson said. "Haste makes waste. We've got to do it right for the monetary benefit of the family. This program is a chance to hook up with good advice, speed, refunds and save on tax preparation too."

Nearly 80 percent of American workers have obtained their high school diploma and 15 percent of that number are African Americans. Only 15 percent of workers are married and 47 percent are single men and 38 percent are single women.

"It's a great way to help people to be self-sufficient," Posey said. "It also has a nice benefit for the community. When people claim this credit they are getting money that may be spent locally, within neighborhoods, cities or in the state."

Filing the EIC is simple, inform your tax preparer of the EIC option that may be available to you. If you file your own taxes, obtain a form 1040 or 1040EZ and complete the steps supplied on the form.

For more information about the EIC credit visit [www.irs.gov/individual/index.html](http://www.irs.gov/individual/index.html) or to find the nearest tax preparation site call 1-800-829-1040.

## BRIEFS

► Continued from Page 1

This is a free event for the community. For more information contact Starlet Oliver at (317) 546-6240 or Jason Hunter at (317) 327-7473.

### Free dance workshop

The Indiana University African American Dance Company will host its Eighth Annual Dance Workshop on Friday, Feb. 18 and Saturday, Feb. 19 at the Neal-Marshall Black Culture Center, 275 N. Jordan Ave., in Bloomington, Ind.

The dance workshop is the only event in the state of Indiana that brings national and international dance professionals to expose students and the community to dance forms of the African diaspora.

### Celebrate the success of Helpline

As a means to address Indiana's high foreclosure rate, the Indiana Mortgage and Foreclosure Helpline, 1-866-722-WAIT, was established in February 2004 to assist Hoosiers at risk of losing their homes. On Friday, Feb. 18 at 9:30 a.m. Congresswoman Julia Carson will celebrate the success of the Helpline and Hoosier families who have been able to keep their homes as a result of its creation.

The event will take place at the Julia Carson Government Center in Conference room A, 300 E. Fall Creek Parkway North Drive.

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## FEES

► Continued from Page 1

He also noted that landlords and owners would be paying fees for property, not renters or tenants who have businesses within a building.

Ironically a bill very similar to Buck's legislation was proposed in 2002 by Rep. William Crawford, D-Indianapolis, a member of the Indiana Legislative Black Caucus and ranking minority member of the House Ways and Means Committee.

Crawford's idea also called for the use of fees to reduce property taxes, but his goal at that time was to raise additional support for police and fire pensions. But his bill lost some support after critics wrongfully accused him of being "against" faith-based institutions after he indicated that churches (which are exempt from paying property taxes) would be required to pay the user fees.

Some observers are amazed

that legislation so close in content to Crawford's is being supported by some of the same individuals who dismissed his bill.

"I don't have any personal feelings about it," said Crawford. "Rep. Buck will simply expand on that idea and add an additional burden that will transition all property taxes for public safety. There will simply be a \$1.3 billion impact on taxpayers throughout the state."

Crawford added that he still believes user fees are the fairest way to pay for public services, but does not view House 1614 as the best way to implement that concept.

"It goes a little too far, and I don't know if I'll support it," he stated. "It goes a little too far on expanding the burden."

Some observers are concerned that homeowners in urban areas plagued with crime might be

hit hard with user fees, since emergency personnel are called more often in those areas due to shootings, burglaries and drug activity.

"I think it is actually a benefit to those urban areas," said Buck. "Rep. Crawford has always been an advocate of noting that some entities, including government buildings are exempt from paying property taxes under the current system, leaving other property owners to shoulder the responsibility of funding police and fire coverage. What this does is to ensure that those who actually use the services pay for them, and encourages investments upfront to make commercial buildings safer because fees will be lower if your insurance rate indicates the property is a low safety risk."

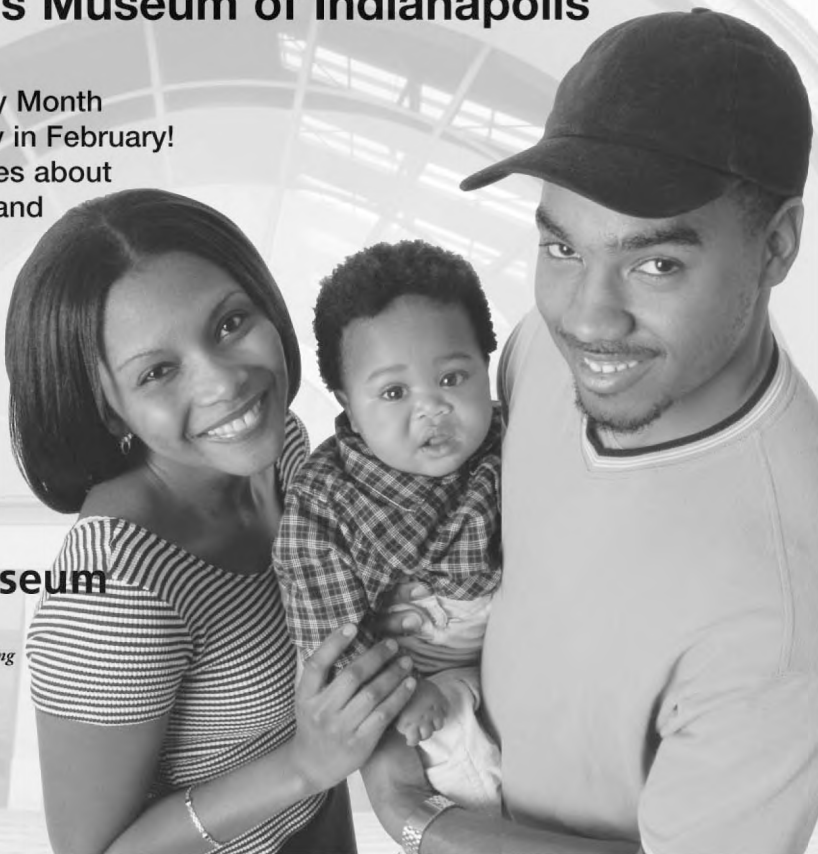
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## Celebrate Black History Month! Saturdays in February at The Children's Museum of Indianapolis

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Wilson-Williams



Anita C. R. Wilson of Indianapolis, Indiana and Oren M. Williams of Indianapolis, Indiana announce their engagement. The couple will marry June 25, 2005.

The bride is the daughter of John and Mildred Logan Sr. of Indianapolis, Indiana and the late Jack Wilson of Ohio. A graduate of Lawrence Central High School, she is an employee of Transportation Safety Technologies of Indianapolis.

The groom is the son of Donna Reeder and grandson of Anna Reeder of Indianapolis, Indiana and brother of Tysha Hardy-Sellers. A graduate of Arsenal Tech High School, he is employed by Calderon Brothers in Indianapolis.

## White supremacists target Waterbury neighborhoods

WATERBURY, Conn. (AP) — City police are investigating complaints from residents who said a national white supremacist group has been dropping racist literature in front of their homes.

"The literature may be offensive, but it is not threatening or advocating any violence," police Sgt. Christopher Corbett said. "At this point, it does not appear that a crime has been committed, but we are receiving complaints from the public and we are following up and actively investigating the matter."

The literature warns white people to organize or face extinction. The source of the paper is the European-American Unity and Rights Organization, a Louisiana-based

group with a stated purpose to defend, "white interests and rights in the same fashion that the NAACP works for 'the advancement of Colored People.'"

The group's president is David Duke, the former leader of the Ku Klux Klan and one-term Louisiana state representative. Duke's assistant James Kelso, said the group is not conducting a campaign in Connecticut. He suggested that a supporter here is engaged in a "self-starter" activity.

The literature also criticizes what it calls the "Jewish-controlled" Hollywood for glamorizing interracial relationships and claims businesses that hire non-white workers change the racial complexion of neighborhoods.

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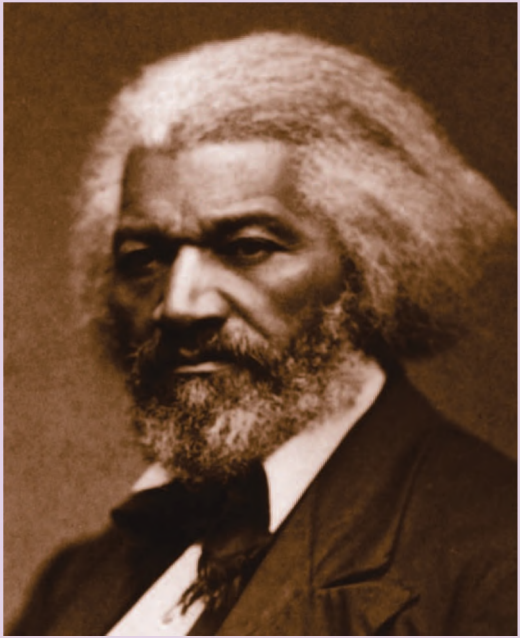
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# Black History Facts for the week of Feb. 13-19

Feb. 13, 1957 - Southern Christian Leadership Conference organized at New Orleans meeting with Martin Luther King Jr. as president.

Feb. 14, 1817 - Frederick Douglass, "The Great Emancipator," is born.



Frederick Douglass

Feb. 14, 1936 - National Negro Congress organized at Chicago meeting attended by 817 delegates representing more than 500 organizations.

Feb. 15, 1848 - Sarah Roberts barred from white school in Boston. Her father, Benjamin Roberts, filed the first school integration suit on her behalf.

Feb. 16, 1951 - New York City Council passes a bill prohibiting racial discrimination in city-assisted housing developments.

Feb. 17, 1870 - Congress passed resolution readmitting Mississippi on condition that it would never change its constitution to disenfranchise Blacks.



W.E.B. DuBois

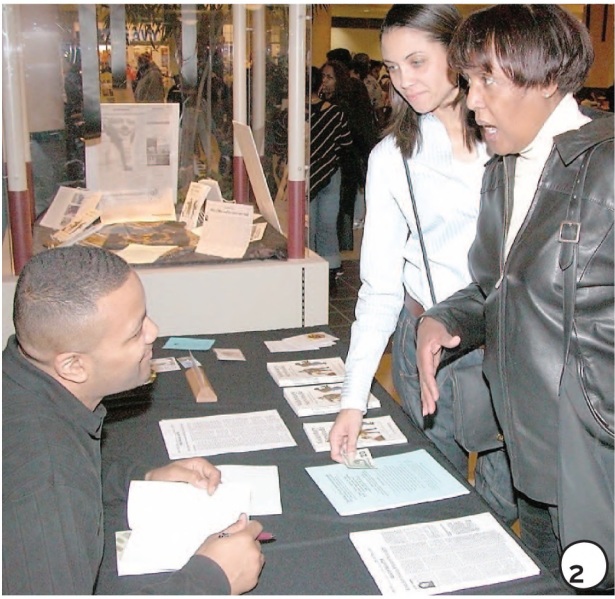
Feb. 18, 1688 - First formal protest against slavery by organized white body in English America made by Germantown Quakers at monthly meeting.

Feb. 19, 1919 - Pan-African Congress, organized by W.E.B. DuBois, met at the Grand Hotel, Paris.

## Meet the Artists Gala at Glendale Mall



1



2



3



4



5

(1) George Murff (left) speaks with longtime friend Rod Trabue about Murff's limited edition prints entitled "Indiana Avenue."

(2) Recorder columnist Leroy Robinson (left) talks to Erica and Theresa Williams about his new book "Fall From Grace: The Family Crisis in Black America."

(3) Tony Artis (left) conducts a workshop on drum making as Erica Tucker watches him make a drum frame.

(4) Khabir Shareef models costumes by Keesha, clothing by designer Keesha Dixon.

(5) Costumes by Keesha were the main feature in the costume show that took place during the Meet the Artists reception.

(6) Karen Depp models more of Dixon's creations.

(7) James Depp recites a poem. (Photos/J. Hurst)



6



7

## WTHR Salutes Black History Month



Linsey Davis, Andrea Morehead, Steve Jefferson, Angela Cain, Sandra Chapman, Chris Wright

EYEWITNESS  
NEWS 13

INDIANA'S NEWS LEADER

Join us throughout February for special programming and news stories about the African-Americans who have shaped Indianapolis, central Indiana and the world.



# Dr. John Joyner - an Indiana legend

By ERICKA P. THOMPSON  
Staff Writer

When Murvin Enders, president of 100 Black Men of Indianapolis, heard that The Recorder was honoring Dr. John Joyner Jr. he easily stated, "It's about time."

Joyner was one of the co-founders of the mentoring organization. He served as its first chairman of the board in 1986. But his hard work, dedication and achievements didn't begin or end with 100 Black Men. It began in Grambling, La., on Feb. 7, 1935.

Born to parents who were educators at Grambling University, Joyner, a 16-year-old graduate of Roosevelt High School in Gary Ind., and graduate of the Indiana University School of Medicine made history when he became the first African-American neurosurgeon in Indiana. He was also one of the first three African-American neurosurgeons trained in the U.S. as well as the first to be accepted at IU into an internship and a subsequent residency program directly out of medical school.

Upon entering medical school, Joyner was unsure of what kind of doctor he wanted to become

but after his externship with Dr. Ted Luros he decided on neurosurgery.

But before he ever picked up a scalpel he picked up a trumpet. "He was torn between being a doctor and a musician," said Joyce Joyner, Dr. Joyner's wife for 43 years. "He was a very accomplished trumpet player. He loved music, especially jazz."

Inspired by legendary musicians like Miles Davis, Cannonball Adderley and Ray Charles, Joyner played alongside musicians much older than he was while he was still in high school. "They played in clubs and he was probably too young to play in those clubs," laughed Mrs. Joyner. "He played in bands while in college and when he was in the Army stationed in Japan. But when he got to medical school he had to give it up because he was too busy."

Busy, eventful, exciting and vivacious all describe what Joyner's life was after he graduated from medical school and began his work Methodist, Winona and St. Vincent hospitals.

Though neurosurgery was his expertise and he was a master of his craft, he is also known for work he did as president of the National Medical Association (NMA) from 1987-88.

He instituted health screenings for low-income individuals in rural communities throughout the country.

"A lot of these people had never been to a doctor in their lives. They were extremely poor," said Mrs. Joyner. "This is something that he was very proud of - to bring medical care to people in these areas."

Joyner, along with the NMA was presented with the Distinguished Service Medal of the U.S.

Dr. John Joyner's achievements

- Distinguished Alumnus Award from Albion College, highest award given.
- Honoree of Living Legends in Indiana.
- Selected as one of the leading Black doctors by Black Enterprise in 1989.
- Scroll of Merit from the National Medical Association, highest award given.
- Honorary Doctorate of Human Letters from Martin University.

Health and Public Service because of those efforts.

While saving lives as a neurosurgeon and instituting much needed programs in the community, Joyner, along with his wife somehow found the time to raise three successful children: Sheryl, network director of purchasing for the Community Health Network, Monica, plastic and reconstruction surgeon, and John III, senior audio technician and studio manager for a television station in L.A.

Sheryl worked alongside her father on several research projects while he was with the NMA, including helping to spearhead an initiative to do HIV/AIDS education training for minority health professionals throughout the U.S. It was the first HIV/AIDS education program geared towards minority health professionals.

"It was rewarding to work with my father. It showed me his dedication to quality health care and ensuring that anyone regardless of their disease or illness should have access to quality care," she said. "It re-affirmed what I knew about him all along. He was committed towards increasing access to quality care for anybody and everyone. It was a really neat thing for me."

Dr. John Joyner did much more than make history in Indiana; he helped make a better America.

In celebrating the accomplishments of African Americans whose stories are unknown, we also celebrate the life of Joyner who passed away Feb. 20, 2001.

"I was extremely proud of my husband as was his entire family," said Mrs. Joyner. "Every time you have an African American who went a step further it helped blaze the trail for someone else to come along."



Dr. John Joyner

RETIRED GENERAL MOTORS WORKER

# Living his life through character of novel

By ERICKA C. WHEELER  
Staff Writer

A General Motors retired worker has centered most of his life around not just building car parts, but with finding history on Black cowboys. Bernard Baker, 54, continues to produce books about the history of the Black cowboy.

A native of Arkansas, who grew up on a farm with his grandparents just outside of Little Rock, Baker never wanted to be a sharecropper and he was never pressured by his family.

"It's just like now, your parents want you to be better than what they were coming up," Baker said. "At the time I was fascinated with horses and knew then that I wanted to be a Black cowboy."

After moving from his farm life, Baker relocated to a rural town in Illinois where he grew up. Snagging a career with Delco Electronics in Kokomo, Ind., is what prompted a move to Central Indiana. He transferred to General Motors in Indianapolis, where he retired in 2004 after 30 years of work.

"I ended up in the auto industry. I have been down to farm life, but that is not what I wanted to do. I could have excelled in farm life because it's in my heart," Baker said.



Bernard Baker

Baker realized his passion as a historian of the Black cowboy, when he recognized the parallels in his life to those of the Black cowboy.

After years of research on the Black cowboy, his first book, *The Tall Cotton Gang*, was published. Stoney Baker, a character in the novel, has a desire to become a Black cowboy and does so through his various ventures. Stoney is a grandson of a sharecropper, as is Baker, and ends up becoming one of the most successful Black cowboys of his time.

Even though Baker was unable to live out his cowboy dream, as did the character Stoney, you can always catch Baker in his cowboy boots and black cowboy hat. Recognizing his desire to be a Black cowboy, Baker has intentionally personalized the characters in his books, by giving them names of family members. He vicariously lives his

dreams through the works of his publications.

Since the 2000 publishing, Baker has produced three more books including, *Backtracking*, *The Cotton Is in Bloom*, and *Tophand*, all of which center around the development of Stoney as the main character.

"My heart was really with the American freedom of cowboy life," said Baker. "The freeness of being around horses. My heart chose to be in the environment of horses, not necessarily in farming, but the cowboy aspect of it."

Baker enrolled into a higher education institution for one year, and withdrew himself to enlist in the U.S. Navy where he served during the Vietnam War. He later returned to college to obtain his associate's degree in arts from Danville Junior College in Illinois.

He currently resides in Kokomo with his wife Donalee and their five children.

In recognition of Black History Month, The Indianapolis Recorder will be collaborating with the stations of Radio One and WISH-TV to educate, enlighten and inform our local community about the positive contributions of African Americans from the state of Indiana.

The collaborative efforts will result in a number of informative messages generated from one common theme, "Celebrating Together: Black History Month."

Join us as we celebrate African Americans in entrepreneurs/business, arts and culture, medical and research, and sports and entertainment.

Celebrate the accomplishments of African-Americans with Hoosier ties in the field of:

Entrepreneurship • Art & Culture  
Medical / Research • Sports / Entertainment

**Celebrating Together**  
a salute to  
**BLACK HISTORY**  
month

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# Little Rock's Central High offers lessons in civil rights history



By CARYN ROUSSEAU

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (AP) — Walk into Little Rock Central High School as classes are changing, the historic school's halls filling with students, and you walk into history.

With just a few upgrades, the cafeteria looks the same as it did in September 1957. The hallways are still narrow, the imposing brick building still foreboding.

Central High shoulders a legacy as the nation's first major battleground for school desegregation after the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in 1954 that Black children were entitled the same education as whites. For three weeks in September 1957, Gov. Orval E. Faubus blocked nine Black students from enrolling at all-white Central, forcing a historic confrontation between state and federal authorities over integration. The Arkansas National Guard circled the school, called out by Faubus to keep the Little Rock Nine away. Inflamed crowds gathered outside.

In response, President Eisenhower signed a history-making proclamation approving the use of federal troops to enforce the desegregation order and protect the Black students. The 101st Airborne Division arrived the next day, and the students entered Central under armed escort Sept. 25, 1957.

Forty-eight years later, the school remains a civil rights landmark and one of the most important historic sites in Little Rock. The National Park Service runs tours, a museum and visitors center at the site, and more than 29,000 people came through last year. An increase is expected this year due to higher numbers of tourists in town to see the nearby Clinton Presidential Library.

Mike Madell, who is director of the historic site for the National Park Service, said he takes tourists through the school to put history in perspective. He includes the auditorium and the cafeteria - where just outside the door the 101st Airborne camped out on an athletic field. He points

out the nooks and crannies in the hallways where white students hid and then jumped out to harass the Black students.

"We ask people to think of what it would be like to be one of nine Black students in an auditorium of more than 2,000," he said. "It's very imposing. There are lots of places to hide."

Photographs on display at the visitors' center - which is made to look like the Mobil gas station that stood on the property during the 1950s - include the famous Will Counts shot of a white girl sneering at a Black female student.

Another photograph shows a sign outside the school that reads, "This school is closed by order of the federal government."

An elaborate timeline notes events from September 1957 through May 1958. An RCA Victor television sits in the corner, running a continuous tape of newsreel footage from the unrest. Above, newspaper front pages flash on a screen.

"It looks more like a war zone and not a normal day of high school," says tour guide Taronia Armstrong. "But it's a good story. We can tell kids, people do change."

Across the street from the visitors center, winding stone walkways lead past nine benches and nine trees through large arches with photos of Little Rock Central students, an area dubbed the Commemorative Garden.

Families or tourists are welcome to drop in for 45-minute guided tours of the visitors' center. Tours of the actual high school are available for larger groups and must be arranged ahead of time, Madell said.

Central High is one of Arkansas' largest high schools, with 2,259 students enrolled last year. The student body is diverse - 52 percent Black, 45 percent white. It also produces more National Merit scholars than any other public school in the state - 16 semifinalists last year.

Nancy Rousseau, principal of Little Rock Central, says she has no problem allowing tours of the school. "I recognize this school is an extension of the

community," she said.

Madell is lobbying to build a new \$5.8 million visitors' center that would offer six times more museum space in time for the 50th anniversary of the Central High crisis. As president, Bill Clinton spoke on the steps of the high school in 1997 for the 40th anniversary.

Madell said the new center is necessary because, "we've really just scratched the surface of the stories here." He said he envisions an entire section dedicated to explaining Faubus' view of the confrontations. The governor feared social unrest if Central's student body included Blacks.

Madell would like to include seven homes along Park Street - where mobs gathered outside the school - within the historic site's boundary. That designation would allow him to offer the owners financial assistance to restore the facades to what they looked like in the 1950s.

"They provided a backdrop for so many events in the 1950s," Madell said. "Every picture probably had these homes in the background. This is where all the crowds congregated."

One woman, Grace Hays-Blagdon of Lake Forest, Calif., has purchased two of the seven homes and hopes to restore them. The Little Rock native wants them to look as they did in 1957. "It was kind of an emotional chord ... You wanted to see the houses you remembered," she said.

With or without the homes as part of the historic site, Madell hopes visitors will recognize that some of the challenges present in 1957 are still relevant today.

"There is a danger to have folks come in and say that was a long time ago," Madell said. "My hope is that when they leave, they can make a comparison between what happened in 1957 and the 21st century. This is a story that is still evolving."

For information and tour arrangements: [www.nps.gov/chsc](http://www.nps.gov/chsc) or (501) 374-1957.



## Valentine's jazz

Ernie "Lady Sax" Shelby plays with The C Third Trio at the Madame Walker Ballroom during the Jazz on the Avenue pre-Valentine's Day party.

Crispus Attucks class of 1949 members (left to right) Maurice Edelen, Madie Goens, Betty Crowe, Margaret Smith, Erma Turner and William Turner enjoy the music at the party. (Photos/J. Hurst)



## Black History Concert



Left to right: Michel Bell, concert narrator; Thomas Wilkins, conductor; Tai Murray, violinist; Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra President and CEO Simon Crookall and Recorder chairman and owner William Mays.

Rezon Coleman (left) and Linsley Godhigh take advantage of the instrument petting zoo by belting out a few notes on instruments available in the Hilbert lobby before the concert last week.



Jazzmine Reed tests her skills to see if she's ready to be the next Tai Murray at the instrument petting zoo. (Photos/J. Holman)





## Celebrating Black History Month

The Brightwood Public Library was recently the site of a Black History celebration. During the event (left to right) Brenda Truedell Bell, Joey Walton and Lora Vann, sort through a table of inventions by George Washington Carver. (Photo/C. Guynn)

## Whistle needs to be blown on achievement gap neglect

By JOSHUA COHEN  
Staff Writer

The achievement gap is an issue in American public schools that is talked about often but seems far from being solved.

"Every school in America talks about this (achievement gap)," said Leroy Robinson, Recorder columnist and host of an upcoming forum, Best Practices: Teaching African American Students. "I hear teachers complaining, but will they take the initiative to find a solution?"

One of the main problems in dealing with the achievement gap is getting people to realize there are changes that need to be made.

"The public school system in itself needs a transformation," said Robinson. "The same problems keep coming up, but the solutions are the same year after year."

Patricia Payne, director of the IPS Office of Multicultural Education, believes people know the changes are needed, but are not willing to work to make them happen.

"This is not a 9-5 job, it's a 24/7 job," she said. "We need to speak out more and more, not just sit back and shake our heads and say, 'That's a shame.'"

Superintendent of Indianapolis Schools Duncan "Pat" Pritchett believes community discussions like this are necessary. "It is absolutely essential," said Pritchett. "We cannot afford to have gaps. This is important so everyone can understand why this exists and can close it."

Payne agrees and thinks there should be more events about the gap. "Forums like this need to be going on all year," she said. "We need to call out the issues that are urgent in our community. There is a crisis with our children. We should be outraged at what we see: low expectations that continue to keep African Americans at the bottom. It's not something we need to accept. We need to be at school board meetings, we need to be in and out of our schools all the time."

Robinson agrees. "The only time they talk about this issue is when ISTEP scores come out," he said. "Other than that it's business as usual. You don't have a whistle blower that brings this up when it's needed."

With all the change needed, there has to be a starting point, and both Pritchett and Robinson believe that starts with the teachers.

"Certainly educators need to hear this so then they can know they can treat students the same," said Pritchett. "I want to reach other policy makers as well so they know programs designed to close the gap actually work."

"I'm talking to teachers number one because they're the ones that carry the most weight," said Robinson. "Teachers are not trained to reach these kids. And then the parents. Parents are not doing their jobs."

Payne simply wants everyone who will listen to hear her message. "I want to reach every single ear in the audience and all those who are not there they will take that message to," she said. "We should have it so that everybody is reinforcing everyone else (with their message). We should all be listening to the same thing at the same time. We as African Americans have to take the lead in this, but we can't do it in isolation."

The discussion takes place Feb. 24 at the Marian College Library Auditorium from 6-8 p.m. Refreshments will be served at 5:30 and the event is free. Some of the panelists include Eugene White, superintendent of Washington Township Schools, Pritchett, Payne and Khaula Martadha, the dean of IUPUI School of Education among others.

For information on donating school supplies to the parents in attendance, call Robinson at (317) 502-0272 or e-mail him at [educationdoesmatter@hotmail.com](mailto:educationdoesmatter@hotmail.com).

# American Heart Association's 2nd Annual Red Apron Cook Off



**Guest Speaker:** Award Winning Actress  
Alfre Woodard

*Presented by:*

**Mazola.**

Mazola is a proud national sponsor of the American Heart Association's **Search Your Heart** program.



**When:** Saturday, February 26, 2005  
10:30 a.m. – 4 p.m.

**Where:** Light of the world Christian Church  
4646 N. Michigan; phone: 254.5851

The event is **free** and open to the public. **Free** health screenings, cooking demonstrations, a **free** heart-healthy catered lunch **for the first 400 people who call and register.**

The Red Apron Cook Off will feature local African American chefs who will prepare American Heart Association recipes during the competition.

**African-American and Hispanic women** face the highest risk of death from heart disease and stroke, but they have the lowest risk factor awareness of any racial or ethnic group according to an American Heart Association survey. Be a part of changing this statistic, come join us at the Cook Off.

**For more information**, and to register for the **free** catered lunch, please call the American Heart Association at 317.873.3640.

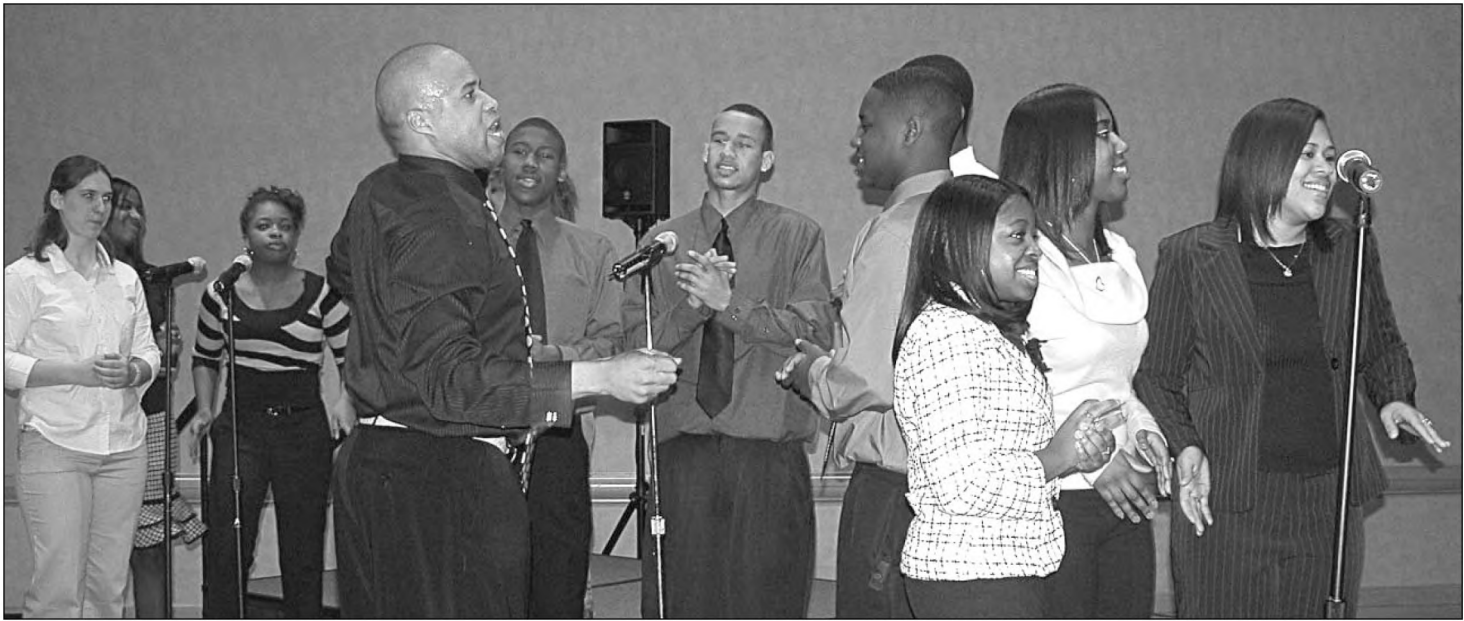




Rev. T.A. Smith Sr. of First Baptist Church in Fostoria, Ohio, served as the keynote speaker at the 10th annual Prayer and Praise Breakfast presented by the Indiana Black Legislative Caucus and Ecumenical Religious Leadership. Smith opened his speech by singing excerpts from "I Won't Complain."



# Black Caucus and Ecumenical Leadership annual breakfast



The Cathedral High School Gospel Choir, led by Napoleon Williams, provides musical entertainment.



Bishop Gary L. Burt of Agape Apostolic Faith Assembly (left) and Rev. Samuel Ruiz of Emmaus Lutheran Church speak with Gov. Mitch Daniels. (Photos/C. Guynn)



Elder John C. Davis (left) of Sanders Temple C.O.G.I.C. speaks with state Rep. Vernon G. Smith, D-Gary, chairman of the breakfast.



Rev. Donald R. Hudson, pastor of Mt. Olive Missionary Baptist Church, prays for our cities, state and nation. Hudson was one of three pastors to lead prayer for specific causes. (Photos/C. Guynn)

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## EDUCATION DOES MATTER

# Best practices: Teaching African-American students

By LEROY ROBINSON



The time has finally come. A city and county-wide effort that is geared towards the encouragement and successful academic improvement of African-American public school students.

For far too long, African-American students have been underachieving in public school classrooms across the country. The focus on the success (or failure) of these students tends to only be of relative importance during the yearly release of the states standardized test scores. Throughout the majority of the school year calendar, the primary focus of improving the academic standing of African-American male and female students seems to be of minimal importance.

According to Eugene White, superintendent of Washington Township Schools, if we are to make any progress in the area of public school education, African-American students must become more of a priority. "The education of African-American students is fundamental to the success of public education in this country," says Dr. White.

Indianapolis Public School Superintendent Pat Pritchett discusses other ways in which the community can lend a hand in helping to improve the quality of education for African-American children. Pritchett says, "the most important thing we can do to improve the academic performance of African-American school children and achievement for all children, is to provide early literacy instruction. Full day kindergarten programs, take home libraries, and preschool education help provide the equal footing that is essential for aca-

ademic success."

The public school environment in which our children are being educated has a lot to do with the success or failure of African-American students. Many people believe that the expectation of the classroom educators goes a long way towards improving the academic performance of all students.

"I believe that African-American students need to be in an environment where the teachers continually instill that the students are capable of achieving academic success regardless of their personal situations," says Guion Creek Middle School principal Kurt Benjamin.

Also, of great interest is the fact that those in front of the classroom also play a major role in assisting to educate the large number of low-achieving African-American students, according to Daphnee Draa, Indianapolis Public School Teacher of the Year (2003). Draa states, "It is critical that the teaching profession attract more minorities to the field of education. There is a huge disparity between the diversity of the students and the diversity of the teachers. By attracting minorities to teaching it will model to the students that teaching is a career for them and help facilitate deeper understanding of minority issues for the staff."

Dean Khaula Martardha, IU-PUI School of Education, believes that the manner in which we test our public school children and evaluate their failure or success needs to be re-evaluated. "We have gone to great lengths to 'mis-educate' many of our African-American public school children. We have not been able to successfully identify the gifts and talents of scores of African-American children, which ultimately leads to their failure in the academic arena."

Martardha goes on to say, "Giving all students one standardized

test with the same format and academic criteria does a disservice to a large group of African-American students who may learn and process information in a different manner." She also referred to the multiple intelligence research conducted by scholar Howard Gardner, when she stated, "Most standardized tests measure on average two or three of the intelligences, leaving those students who learn by the other four, years behind those who have mastered those specific intelligences that are being tested."

We must place a priority of educating those millions of African-American public school children who consistently lag behind their Asian and white counterparts. The upcoming public forum is a step in that direction.

Note: The above individuals, along with several other highly respected educators will participate in a panel/community discussion Feb. 24. Your support and presence at this event is highly requested.

### Free community forum

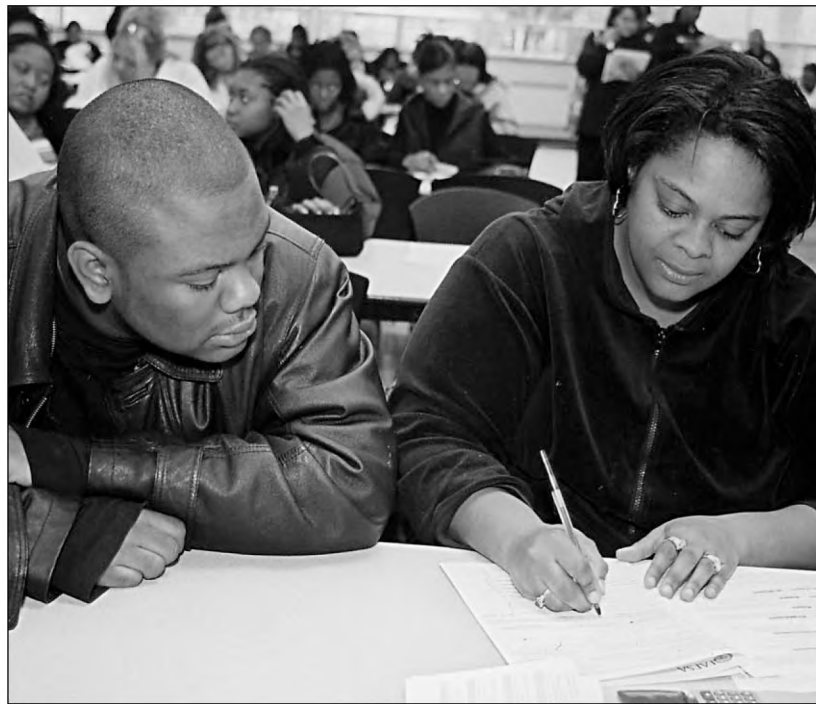
"Best practices for teaching African-American students"

Community forum and panel discussion with public school administrators and educators on how to help African-American students reach high academic achievement and classroom success. This event is free and open to the public.

When: Thursday, Feb. 24  
Where: Marian College Library Auditorium, 3200 N. Cold Spring Road

Time: 6 - 8 p.m.

For speaking engagements or education workshops, contact Robinson at: [educationdoesmatter@hotmail.com](mailto:educationdoesmatter@hotmail.com) or write: 9701 E. 63rd St. Indianapolis, IN. 46236. For questions or comments, call (317) 502-0272.



## College Goal Sunday

College Goal Sunday was recently held at Arlington High School. The event was organized to help college students and future college students prepare their financial aid paperwork. During the event, Mark Crenshaw and his mother Rosalind Washington prepare the necessary forms. (Photo/C. Guynn)

## Schools boot questionable book, suspend teacher who used it

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. (AP) — Tension is swirling after a collection of short stories that uses derogatory racial names was removed from four public schools and a teacher was suspended for using it.

Chris Crutcher, author of *Athletic Shorts*, said he is upset that his 1989 collection of short stories was taken off library shelves after complaints that an Ottawa Montessori Academy teacher used the book in class.

The book contains racial slurs, and the teacher, Patricia Bouwhuis, was suspended while school district officials investigate the situation, the Grand Rapids Press reported.

"I feel really bad that a teacher gets suspended for looking for a story that has some lessons in it," Crutcher, of Spokane, Wash., told the paper for a story.

Superintendent Bert Bleke ordered copies of the books removed after a parent raised concerns about passages that were read in class.

"We pulled them, but that doesn't mean they won't go back,"

district spokeswoman Susan Krieger said.

"Telephone Man," the story that sparked the controversy, is about a borderline autistic boy who mimics his father's racist views and refers to Blacks and ethnic groups in derogatory terms. The story ends with the boy being saved by a Black student from a beating by a Chinese karate gang.

"It's gritty, there's no doubt about that," Crutcher said. "We sit around and talk about No Child Left Behind, and all the kids that are left behind get X-ed out because we don't want to hear about their lives."

Hazel Lewis, president of the local NAACP, called the story "trash" and said Bouwhuis should be fired.

"It's terrible," she said. "... She should be more sensitive than to bring that into a seventh- and eighth-grade classroom. College students can handle stuff like that, but not our babies."

A committee will be set up to decide whether to keep the book.

## Schools face new hit as state cuts textbook payment rate

(AP) — School districts will have to dip deeper into their budgets to provide textbooks to low-income students this year because of a change in the state's reimbursement rate.

The state will reimburse districts 69.5 percent of the cost of textbooks for students who qualify for free or reduced price meals. That's down from 77.5 percent last year and 83.5 percent in the 2002-2003 school year.

Mary Tiede Wilhelmus, a spokeswoman for the Indiana Department of Education, said the reimbursements are dropping because more students are qualifying for free and reduced meals. At the same time, the money available for reimbursements has remained the same - about \$19.9 million.

School officials say the reduction could force them to cut other areas to make up the difference.

Indianapolis Public Schools is eligible for more than \$3.2 million this year in textbook reimbursements. It will get \$2.2 million under the lower rate.

"Any cut is difficult for a school district," said George Smith, assistant business manager for the state's largest school district.

Schools will have to find other ways to pay for the textbooks, officials said.

Dennis Costerison, executive director of the Association of Indiana School Business Officials, said the cuts are disappointing.

"This is just one more bite out of their general fund that no one had anticipated," he said.

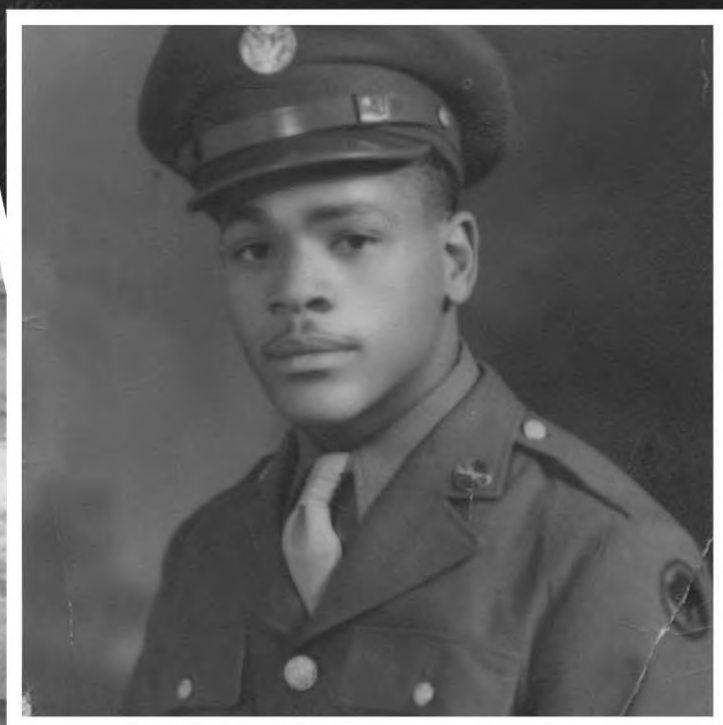
Schools recently learned that Gov. Mitch Daniels is withholding about \$52 million they had expected to receive this calendar year. Daniels said the state cannot afford to distribute the money and still balance its budget.

Daniels also wants to freeze basic funding for schools at current levels for the next two years. Educators say that amounts to a budget cut because without increased funding, schools cannot keep up with health care premiums, teacher salaries, utilities and other expenses.

Although Daniels has proposed a budget with no general funding increases, the Department of Education has requested about \$32.5 million over each of the next two years for the textbook reimbursement program. It's an increase of more than \$12 million each year for two years and would reimburse schools 100 percent of the cost of textbooks for qualifying students, according to the department.

House Ways and Means Committee Chairman Jeff Esch, R-Uniondale, said that House Republicans will include more money for schools in their two-year budget plan.

## LEGENDS CANNOT BE CRUSHED BY THE HANDS OF TIME



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ONLY ON









# EDITORIAL

## Republicans keep trying to grab more power

By SHANNON WILLIAMS  
Recorder Editor



These are scary times we're living in right now.

I know it sounds rather dramatic, but in all actuality, it's true. The current state that America is in under the leadership of President Bush scares me because I see the downward slope we're on. And just as scary is the current state that Indiana is in under Gov. Mitch Daniels' reign.

Oftentimes when one hears the word "reign" they may think of a dictatorship, or the complete control one may have over others. A dictatorship is not too far off from the way Mitch Daniels apparently wants to run this state.

A perfect example of this is House Bill 1703 that Amos Brown outlines in his column this week. If passed, this bill will stop the election of judges in Marion County and institute the beginning of a dictatorship as judges are appointed.

How truly absurd is that? Obviously the reason Daniels and his Republicans in the Statehouse want HB 1703 to go is because many cases involving the state have to go through Marion County. When one (or a small group of individuals) is able to choose who they want to make a judge, naturally they'll "select" someone that has views similar to their own. Or they'll select someone who has absolutely no backbone and will basically do what's told of them, rather than what's right.

Many pose the question, "why is it now necessary to change the judicial system and appoint judges?" Well, the answer is simple. Marion County is vastly Democrat, so what better way to have an effective dictatorship than to eliminate the voice of the opposition. Interesting enough, there are two other counties in Indiana that currently appoint their judges. One is Lake County, which includes Gary, and the other is St. Joseph County, which includes South Bend. Both of these counties, along with Marion have majority Democratic residents. These counties also have high populations of African Americans. Do you see where I'm going with this?

During Tuesday's General Assembly session, Democrats introduced a minority report that would change the bill for the appointment of judges.

This introduction garnered a huge response from Democrat representatives, many of whom adamantly voiced their concern of HB 1703.

Currently in her third year, Rep. Carolene Mays called HB 1703 "the most blatant example of partisan politics I've ever seen," which resulted in a standing ovation from her party.

Rep. Mae Dickinson, who has been with the General Assembly for 13 years reminded everyone of the three civil rights workers in the South who were slain because they worked hard to register voters. Dickinson said, "We're going backwards," in regard to HB 1703.

But perhaps the individual who was especially vocal that day was Rep. Bill Crawford, who reminded the House of the effectiveness of the current system.

"Government of, by, and for the people. Government by the consent of the governed, not by the consent of those appointed. The system is not broken, the system is working," Crawford said.

At Recorder press time, the Minority Committee Report was adopted which has never happened. HB 1703 could still be brought back, although House Democrats hope Republicans got the message and will let the bill die.

\*\*\*\*\*

David Donahue, the new head of the Department of Correction recently released 100 juvenile offenders who committed a variety of crimes. Appointed by Gov. Daniels, I'm sure Donahue released those offenders more to establish a good faith effort for residents, rather than because he actually believed these individuals had the ability to lead productive lives henceforth.

Instead of just releasing those juveniles back into society with no direction, Donahue should have established some type of rehabilitation program that the offenders were obligated to attend immediately upon release. A program like this would teach the offenders that what they did was wrong, but it would also show them ways to ensure that they don't repeat their crimes or commit new ones. This sort of program should also include a mental health counselor who would be available to talk to and guide the juveniles in a more effective manner.

Some of those released could have committed crimes ranging from theft to rape. What good is releasing them if they don't learn the basic decision making skills involved in being upstanding citizens.

By AMOS BROWN III



HB1703, the horrific proposal to abrogate Indianapolis residents' right to choose the judges of their choice has gotten worse thanks

to amendments by its partisan sponsor, state Rep. Michael Murphy, R-Indianapolis.

Now the bill expands from five to 11 the members of the selection committee that would choose potential nominees for Marion County Superior Court judge positions. Murphy now includes representation from the Marion County Bar Association, the Black lawyers group.

But, HB1703 now includes an absurd provision where the governor picks two of the 11-member selection committee. That's a gross conflict of interest since the governor eventually selects the actual judges.

After someone told him I was on the radio vehemently criticizing his noxious proposal, Rep. Murphy called our WTLC-AM (1310) talk show and explained why his ghastly proposal is good for our African-American community.

This partisan politician and Marion County Republican Party chair told our audience/community that judges should be removed from partisan politics. Incredulously, Murphy told African Americans that white Democratic leaders have repeatedly rammed Black judges down the Black community's throat.

"It's an insult to the African-American community," Murphy said, "for a 60-year old white man (Marion County Democratic Chair Ed Treacy) to choose the judges for the African-American community."

Truth is that the Democratic African-American judges

## JUST TELLIN' IT

# Changes to HB1703 make it worse, and Daniels' civil rights choice

were not initially slated by the party; they were elected by our Black community in contested primaries.

Murphy's condemnation of the political process of electing judges, while using naked partisan politics to cram this odious bill down Indianapolis' throat so Republicans can retain titular control of Marion County's courts, is the most hypocritical use of political power in decades.

Despite tepid support from the Indianapolis Bar Association, HB1703 continues to be a radioactive proposal threatening our African-American community. Our African-American community must hold the Republican-majority Legislature and the Daniels administration personally responsible if this reprehensible proposal, the cruelest since Jim Crow days, is allowed to become law.

### What I'm hearing in the streets

Daniels Diversity Watch: The number of African-American top appointments rises to five because in his most impressive minority appointment, Gov. Mitch Daniels chose a former Colorado Supreme Court justice to head Indiana's Civil Rights Commission. Justice Gregory Kellam Scott brings impressive credentials to the job. Rutgers and IU Law School graduate, distinguished record as a corporate attorney, law professor and a barrier breaker as the first African American on the Centennial State's high court.

I've known since New Year's Eve that Justice Scott might get the gig. In my Jan. 6 column, I told you about a "handsomely dressed African American" I met that day in Daniels' transition office. Introducing Justice Scott to me, Daniels said Scott was married to a Weatherly, a prominent African-American family in Anderson.

While speaking with Daniels and Scott, I saw Scott holding a folder with Indiana Civil Rights Commission letterhead on the

front. I quickly surmised that Scott might be considered to head the agency.

If I was an unprincipled columnist, like Armstrong Williams, I'd have publicized my hunch. And, despite what Gov. Daniels' press secretary thinks, this columnist has scruples and honor.

I knew Scott because a sister on his wife's side was a former WTLC co-worker. I met him through her years ago when he was a law professor. After he made history as Colorado's first African-American Supreme Court justice, I interviewed him on WTLC-AM.

Out of respect to a new governor, Justice Scott and his family, I didn't blow Scott and Daniels' cover.

So, I guess I gave Mitch a muligan. In turn, Daniels' gave all minorities, everyone in Indiana, a great appointment that'll protect civil, equal and human rights in our Hoosier state.

\*\*\*\*\*

Speaking of mulligans, the brouhaha over Washington Township School Superintendent Dr. Eugene White calling Gov. Daniels a "liar" began with remarks White made to Indianapolis Star editors.

White went there because a recent Star editorial erroneously said Gov. Daniels was "intimately knowledgeable about Washington Township schools," even though Daniels' children were educated in the Lawrence Township schools.

White believed that the governor was two-faced in his State of the State speech when Daniels' said, "We must catch up and surpass our competition in the only educational measure that ultimately matters, the academic results achieved by our kids. Our test results lag behind other states, but the size and cost of our school buildings is second to none."

White cites stats from the Indiana Department of Education that says Indiana's excelling in several educational benchmarks including Indiana fourth and

eighth grade students scoring above national and international scores in the 2003 International Mathematics and Science study. And last month the Thomas Fordham Foundation said Indiana's math and English standards were among the highest in America.

Speaking on our daytime radio show, White agreed with my contention that cuts in current public school funding and textbook subsidies by the Daniels administration hurts, not helps, public education. And with known enemies of public schools, like David Shane, whispering in the governor's ear, White understands that public education in Indiana is in for months of upheaval.

White's use of the "L-word" generated a firestorm of controversy among whites whipped up by talk show host Greg Garrison's uniformed demagoguery. This white backlash forced the cowardly Washington Township School Board to call an emergency meeting last Saturday, where the board caved to the right-wing pressure and neutered Dr. White into tempering his criticisms.

Despite the spineless Washington Township School Board, White was right. Public schools are in for a long winter of discontent at the hands of a governor who last week revealed that he wanted to live in Carmel.

And would someone remind Gov. Daniels he needs to read the Indiana Constitution he swore to uphold because Article 6, Section 5b says, "The governor shall reside at the seat of government." That means Daniels must live in Indianapolis/Marion County, not move to a dream home behind gated Carmel walls.

When a governor doesn't know what's in his state's Constitution, you know we're all in trouble.

See 'ya next week!

*Amos Brown's opinions are not necessarily those of The Indianapolis Recorder. You can contact him at (317) 221-0915 or e-mail him at ACBROWN@AOL.COM.*

## Simple steps can lead to a cleaner environment

By GILBERT L. Holmes



Earlier this month, the Indiana Department of Environmental Management issued a poor air quality alert for Marion and other counties

in the state. The alert was due to higher levels of pollutants and particulate matter in the air from man-made and natural sources.

This is a wake up call for change. On behalf of the Indianapolis Public Transportation Corp., known as IndyGo, I want to encourage residents to take simple steps including carpooling, vanpooling, walking, biking and using public transportation to reduce this type of pollution that affects our individual health as well as the health of our communities.

The message is clear: We each need to do what we can to reduce pollution.

Our aim is clear: Provide mobility solutions that are safe, reliable and environmentally friendly to satisfy the needs of our community such as electric hybrid buses, carpooling and vanpooling services.

We all are aware of ozone in the summer, but the environmental threat of air pollution is year-round. Elevated levels of dust, dirt, soot, smoke, and chemicals in the air prompted the state's first-ever winter season alert.

One of the main causes for this type of pollution is mobile emissions. Our city and outlying communities are growing tremendously. As a result, we

are experiencing increased traffic congestion and increased emissions. This is a solvable problem. We must change the transportation culture of Central Indiana to sustain development. Air pollution does not contribute to the vibrant, economically strong city that we are building. Nor does it help any of us health-wise.

Change is needed from everyone in order to reverse this impact on our environment and achieve the new air quality standards set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. If Central Indiana does not meet these standards the region may lose federal funding for roads and transportation, as well as opportunities to attract new businesses.

IndyGo is committed to educating the public on commuting alternatives to ensure that we have a healthy environment to live, work, and play.

We are doing our part by providing innovative services that are in-tune with the needs of our urban contemporary lifestyles and directly address environmental issues.

We are among several communities nation-wide investing in buses powered by electric hybrid technology manufactured by our own GM Allison. This technology offers greater fuel economy and dramatically lowers emissions over conventional buses. Additionally, we are using alternative fuels such as soy bio-diesel and plan to switch to ultra-low sulfur diesel with particulate emission traps in the future. We have established an innovative commuter services program for the residents of Indianapolis and our surrounding counties - Central Indiana Commuter Services (CICS).

CICS is a federally funded program that IndyGo operates to reduce traffic congestion and air

pollution. CICS helps commuters find alternative transportation options that reduce the stress and the cost of driving alone to work each day. These transportation options include carpooling, vanpooling, public transportation, biking and walking. CICS services are free to all those who work in the nine county Central Indiana region and easily accessible through the Web site or by phone.

The services we offer are just a few steps we are taking to contribute to healthy residents, economic development, a cleaner environment and a better quality of life.

Local employers such as Clarian, Dow AgroSciences, SBC, City of Indianapolis and the State of Indiana are already using CICS as an employee benefit to get them to work safely and efficiently while saving them money. Hundreds of residents are using the hybrid bus transit to get to work. However, more proactive participation is needed to impact the air quality issues.

We can solve this problem together.

Sharing a ride, using the bus

or walking are low-to-no cost ways that all residents can use to save money and improve our environment.

Last week's alert was a wake up call for us to change. We cannot ignore it. We are a product of our environment. If it is contaminated, so are we. One more day, one more year without changing our commuting habits leads to more erosion of our health, natural resources, and opportunities that sustain world-class communities. Through IndyGo and its mobility options, Central Indiana has choices for people to do their part in addressing environmental concerns. These are simple steps that will significantly impact our lives for the better. The choice is ours. We must choose to change.

For more information on IndyGo services including CICS, visit [www.indygo.net](http://www.indygo.net) or call The IndyGo Transit Store, located 209 N. Delaware St., at 635-3344; TDD/Hearing Impaired call 637-0759.

*Gilbert L. Holmes is the president and CEO of the Indianapolis Public Transportation Corp.*



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# Shopping for auto insurance

By Brenda Bond and Leland Brown  
State Farm® agents

Whether you're a first time buyer of auto insurance or already have it but are looking for a better deal, you should be asking several questions.

First, is the person from whom you're buying (your agent) a visible, established member of your community—someone you know and trust?

Second, is the company from whom you're buying well known? What is its reputation? What about price? Because there are hundreds of companies competing for your business, prices vary—sometimes a lot. It may pay you to shop. Be sure the premiums you're quoted are for equal amounts of coverage.

How about service? Price is important but saving money won't mean much unless you get the service you need— when you need it. If possible, ask other clients of your prospective agent how they've been treated, especially when they've had a claim. Find out how the company handles claims. Is the method convenient for you, no matter where you have an accident?

How about solvency? Is the company you're considering still going to be in



Brenda Bond



Leland Brown

business when you file your claim? Your state department of insurance has financial rating information on all of the companies that do business in its state.

Once you've decided on a company and an agent, there are more questions to ask.

How much coverage do you need? The required minimum amounts of liability coverage may not be enough for you.

Consider your needs in light of your assets and income. How much can you afford to pay if there's a big judgement against you because of an accident? What about deductibles? Deductibles lower your premiums—most commonly for collision and comprehensive coverages—but increase the amount of loss that comes out of your pocket. How much additional risk are you willing to take in order to save? Should you carry collision and comprehensive coverage? As your car's value decreases, you might consider dropping these coverages and pocketing the savings on premiums. But consider if the savings are enough to offset the risk of footing the entire cost of repairing or replacing your car.

Auto insurance is not a generic commodity. It is a product that should be tailored to each individual. Your agent can help you answer these questions and thereby help you tailor your auto insurance to your specific and unique needs.

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## SPIRITUAL OUTLOOK

# Handling life's turning points

(Part 1)  
*Sermon Excerpt*  
By **PASTOR STEPHEN J. CLAY**

We have a number of teen-agers who are transitioning their way into college for the first time. A number of students who are enrolled in college, graduate school and continued education. Also, a number of students who are in elementary transitioning into junior high and high school. It is with all of those collectively in mind and with respect to where we are as a people and church congregation, I wanted to talk about handling life's turning points.

What are life's turning points and how do we handle them? Let me give you a working definition of what we mean when we refer to life's turning points.

Life's turning points are those critical moments in one's life when the choice you make can affect the rest of your life.

These turning points are also referred to as pivotal moments. Some of those turning points could be but not limited to some of the following examples - 16 is a turning point, 18 is a turning point, 21 is a turning point. The wrong choice at these critical junctures in life could set you on a course filled with despair, regret and even leave you in ruin.

You adults will recall your life's turning points. You will recall your first invitation to have sex outside of marriage - that was a turning point. It ain't been that long ago - you remember don't you. Don't be so heavenly minded you don't have an earthly testimony. That was a turning point.

Your first chance to cheat on your spouse perhaps out of frustration, or friction or finance or just for fun, but it was one of life's turning points. The wrong choice at that critical moment could have altered your life forever.

Life is filled with pivotal moments. Life is filled with turning points. Which college? Which state? What part of the country do I ultimately want to live in? What career path? What choices should I make? Drugs or study hall? Turning points. Should I take the morality taught to me at home when I leave to go to school or is this my day of emancipation where I can run wild and do what I want to do? Turning points. You've all had to stand at these critical turning points and make a choice.

In our text today, our entire message is built on one obscure verse. It's verse 26. "And they went and came to Moses, and to Aaron, and to all the congregation of the children of Israel, unto the wilderness of Paran, to Kadesh; and brought back word unto them, and unto all the congregation, and shewed them the fruit of the land."

This is an obscure verse because it mentions a city. Paran to Kadesh. It is a verse that if you're reading it - you read right by it because you're familiar with the rest of it and there would be nothing particular that stands out about that particular verse. But in the book of Numbers we see the children of Israel departing from Mt. Sinai.

They began to wander until that generation died in the wilderness. The years of wandering were virtually a saga of suffering, a trek of tragedy and a story of strain. It is important to note that the distance from Mt. Sinai to Kadesh Paran was about 150 to 200 miles. A journey that should have taken about 11 days according to Deut. Chapter 1 vs. 2. The Israelites spent 30 days

► See **OUTLOOK**, Page B3

# Order of Service Religion

## THE HEALING MINISTRY OF SPIRITUAL AWAKENING TABERNACLE Here for anyone fighting disease, spiritual bondage

By **BRANDON A. PERRY**  
Staff Writer

Throughout the world many individuals — rich and poor, saint and sinner, young and old — have expressed concern about the growing HIV/AIDS epidemic that has killed millions while sweeping through the U.S., Africa and Asia. But far too often, this concern does not translate into action.

However, one Indianapolis inner city ministry has taken concrete steps to not only raise awareness and prevent future cases of AIDS, but also minister to those who currently have the disease and their family members.

Local church leaders recently announced the formation of Healing Ministries Inc., an organization designed to step up the Christian community's response to the devastation left behind by AIDS, addiction, spiritual isolation and anything else keeping individuals from having peace and meeting their full spiritual and social potential.

Rev. Clarence Hatcher, founder of Healing Ministries, said one of his main goals is to offer a supportive spiritual atmosphere for those who, like him, have dealt with HIV/AIDS and the stigma associated with the illness.

"Many of us here are familiar with the needs of people living with HIV/AIDS because we too have faced the rejection of family and church leaders," Hatcher said. "So we are trying to establish a non-judgmental safe place not only for people who are wrestling with HIV/AIDS, but also those who face associated dilemmas such as alcoholism, drug abuse and family separation."

Members of Healing Ministries meet for services every Saturday from 3-4 p.m., and enjoy a community fellowship luncheon every other Friday from 5-7 p.m. Healing Ministries is currently housed in Spiritual Awakening Tabernacle, a nondenominational church located at 3363 Central Ave.

In addition to regular services and fellowship, needy families and individuals are welcome to gather food from the pantry. Attendees who bring references from any area church or community organization can receive clothing items at no charge. In April, the growing ministry will open an after school program complete with computers.

"This is a full scale ministry that not only provides spiritual guidance and HIV testing, but also covers a wide range of needs in our community," said Hatcher.

Before forming Healing Ministries, Hatcher was pastor of the Healing Church, an outreach ministry of the Ebenezer Baptist Church Foundation that hosted special church services for HIV patients and provided an active support group that embarked on fun activities. Since 2002, Hatcher had also worked with Bridging the Gap, another Ebenezer entity that promotes awareness campaigns and provides free HIV testing at events, churches and community centers.

He emphasized that the split with Ebenezer was amicable and purely administrative in nature.

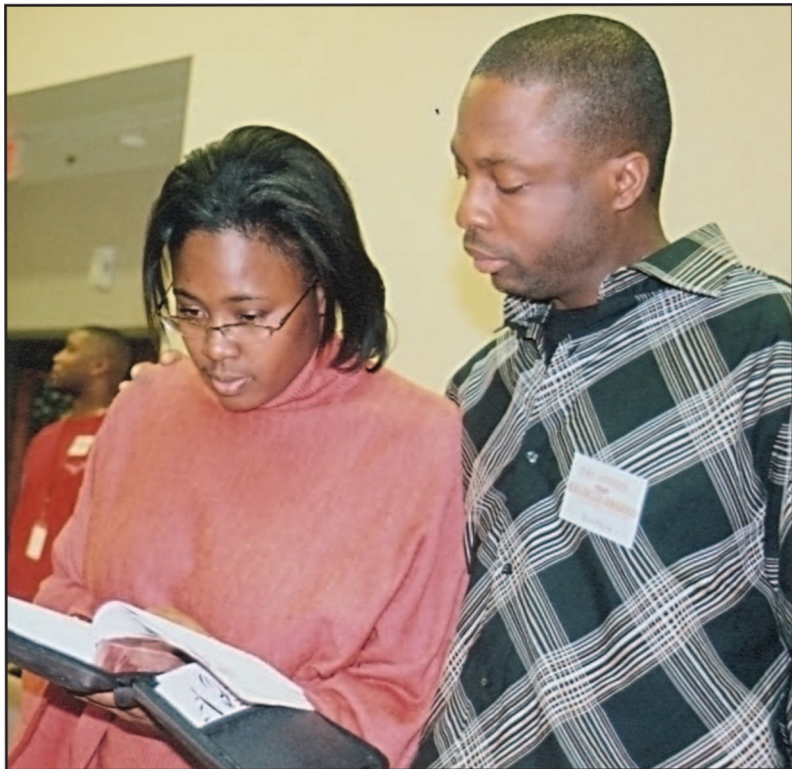
Hatcher said he established the new ministry in a near-Westside neighborhood near downtown because his ministry team agreed that it is an area of the city in great need of a coordinated effort to fight the spread of

► See **HEALING**, Page B4



**Above: Rev. Orlando Beck, pastor of Spiritual Awakening Tabernacle**  
**Left: Rev. Clarence Hatcher, founder of Healing Ministries.** (Photos/J. Hurst)

## Men's Conference



**Second Baptist Church held its annual Men's Conference over the weekend. Dion Payne reads a selected scripture with his wife Theresa.**



**Rev. Dan Harris of Ambassador Baptist Church, featured speaker for the event, delivers a message to those in attendance.**



**The Ambassador Choir offers praise and worship selections during the Conference.** (Photos/C. Guynn)

## Black History at St. Rita



**On Sunday, St. Rita Catholic Church held the second installment of its Black History Month observance. From left: Featured speaker, Father James E. Goode is shown with Father Chester Smith and Father Hien Phan.**



**Violinist Crystal Ford provides a rendition of the song "Blessed Assurance."**



**Goode is a leading evangelist and president of the National Black Catholic Apostolate for Life.** (Photos/C. Guynn)

## Real answers for Christian singles

**Dealing with the loss after divorce or death**  
By **BRANDON A. PERRY**  
Staff Writer

(Part 2 of 2)

Last week The Recorder addressed the concerns of single Christians who have never been married. But there's also another dimension of singleness that presents itself everyday to an increasing number of people: Those who become single again in the aftermath of a divorce or tragic death of their spouse.

In most cases, an individual will see life as basically complete if they have Christ, their husband/wife and children. But it may seem as though half of that person is lost, and deep wounds are left after divorce or death of a loved one.

"My mother has recently lost her husband after an 18-year marriage, and the first thing she felt was emptiness and lack of completion," said Robin Hunter, co-pastor of New Vision Community Church. "There's a grieving period you must go through in order to receive healing. But after that phase, it's important to understand that you are still a complete person in Christ."

Rev. Michael Jones, pastor of Progressive Missionary Baptist Church, noted that a person never gets over the loss of a cherished partner; they get through it with the God's grace and the support of people strong in their faith.

"The Bible makes it clear that widows (and widowers) are special people in the sight of God who require love and affection," Jones said. "As Christians we have to help them sustain their faith and trust in God by loving them, showing them that they matter and caring for whatever needs they might have."

In 2003 Sam Jones, longtime president of the Indianapolis Urban League and the clergyman's father died from cancer. The loss is still fresh to family members.

"After the healing process the bereaved can move forward into life all over again," added Jones. "You can't die just because your spouse or a relationship dies; you've got to live. There's a Scripture that says 'I lay before you two choices, life and death.' We must remember that the choice of life is always available and Christ can comfort us, if we let him."

On the subject of divorce, Jones cited a recent study, which indicated that in some ways, divorce can actually be worse than the death of a mate in terms of "widespread drama and trauma."

"Divorce can be very painful because the one you have been separated from can carry your secrets into the beauty shop, barber shop, and even church," Jones said. "But again, there must be a community of affirmation and love for these people so that they can receive God's forgiveness and realize that they are not damaged goods or the world's worst sinner because of the divorce. They are still people of value."

Some prominent spiritual leaders like Rev. Billy Graham and Bishop T.D. Jakes encourage Christians to be thankful for the years God gave them with their spouse, and rejoice in the fact that he/she is in heaven, free from the trials and struggles of a fallen world.

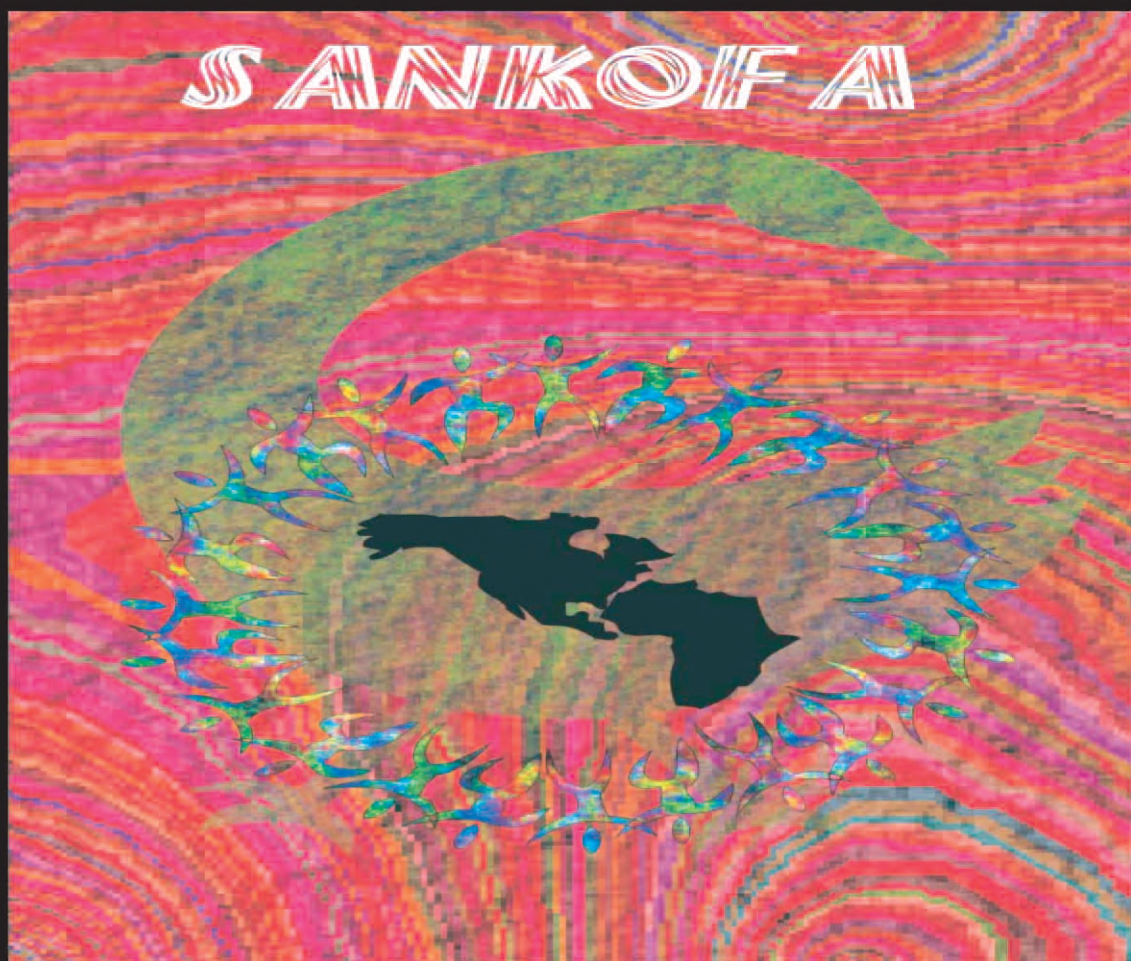
They also believe it's essential for bereaved individuals to reach out to others who might also seek comfort, noting that needs can be met for individuals on both sides. Rev. Larry Glass, pastor of Abundant Faith Apostolic Church, agrees.

"It might be difficult at first, but I encourage members to get involved in positive activities instead of just dwelling on themselves," Glass said. "Far

► See **SINGLES**, Page B4



Come explore the tradition of  
African-American Christian Spirituality



**Tuesday, February 22**

**Showers Lectures**

**"African-American Christian Spirituality  
Exploring the Heritage & Claiming the Promise"**

University Chapel, Schwitzer Student Center  
University of Indianapolis  
1400 East Hanna Avenue  
Indianapolis, IN 46227

**4:30 p.m.**

**The Rev. Dr. Eugene Blair**

Director of African-American Spiritual Formation  
Detroit Conference, United Methodist Church

**7:30 p.m.**

**The Rev. Dr. Glandion Carney**

Chaplain, Christian Legal Society & Adjunct Faculty  
Academy for Spiritual Formation

**Wednesday, February 23**

**The Gathering of the African-  
American Sages**

**9 a.m. to 4 p.m.**

**Workshop discussion**

Recital Hall, Good Hall  
University of Indianapolis  
1400 East Hanna Avenue  
Indianapolis, IN 46227

**Guest Sage: The Rev. Dr. Safiyah Fosua**

Director of Invitational Preaching  
General Board of Discipleship,  
United Methodist Church

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*These events are free and open to the public. Persons who wish to participate in the luncheon on Wednesday must reserve a space in advance. Persons planning to attend should contact Lois Stead at 788.2106 or email lstead@uindy.edu.*

## God's Vision Valentine Gospel Bash



Individuals that participated in the recent God's Vision Valentine Gospel Bash are shown with gospel event promoter Cleo Camphor (front row, right).

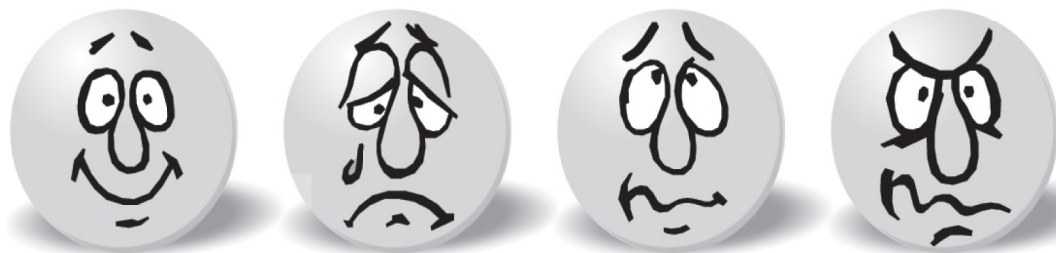


Christian rapper Smooth P performs with a liturgical praise dancer during the musical bash, which was held at the Econo Lodge Ballroom. Other artists who appeared include The Angels of Joy and The Sounds of Salutation. (Photos/J. Hurst)

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# OUTLOOK

► Continued from Page B1

at a place called Gaibarth. They spent 40 years on a journey that should have only taken 40 days because their walking turned into wandering.

Choices have consequences. You waited a long time perhaps to say I'm 18 I'm grown. I'm on my way to college, I've got my dorm. I've got a job. I'm working just like you are. You've waited a long time to be able to say that and you're now at that point where you can say it, but choices have consequences.

The reason I wanted to look at Numbers 13 is because this is the turning point for the children of Israel. You've heard about them in Sunday school. You've heard about them your entire life. Everybody has heard about the children of Israel and their plight and their problems, but we have not hither before found that very moment that the decision they made set them on a course that left them in the wilderness for 40 years.

It is a place called Kadesh Paran. It was a pivotal moment in their lives. It was a turning point in their lives. I'm just trying to tell everybody in here today that all of us have a Kadesh Paran.

That regardless to how old you are, regardless to where you come from, regardless to your walk and your station in life, all of us have that turning point where the decision that we make at that moment could set our life for the rest of our lives.

Israel's choice was made while in between. They were out of Egypt, out of the bondage of Pharaoh. Out from under his tyranny and they were making their way to Canaan but they had not made it there yet. This challenge came in between and that's where most of life's challenges occur - while you are in between.

Can you get out of high school without becoming a daddy - in between. Can you go to college and graduate from college without

becoming a father or a mother - in between. A lot of life's challenges happen to us while we are in between.

I don't have a job and I'm having difficulty making ends meet. Should I let him move in or not - in between. I wish you'd wake up and hear me today. Many of us find ourselves in between where we were and where we need to be and it's at that moment that the choices that we make become critical choices - because choices have consequences. You have not heretofore been able to put your hands on that point - that place where Israel made the wrong choice and as a result of making the wrong choice they ended up staying in the wilderness for years. As a result of the wrong choice the generation that left Egypt did not make it to Canaan.

They died in the wilderness because of a wrong choice. They were on the border of Canaan a 150-200 miles away from the Promised Land but then a choice - an opportunity came up and they made the wrong choice. Who could not tell of a party that they went to - that if they had went home when they said they were going home they wouldn't be dealing with what they're dealing with right now. Who does not have a story of a stop that they should not have made - a phone call that they should not have returned - a page that they should not have responded to - a cell call that they never should have answered. Everybody in here Yes, look to your left. Yes, look to your right. Yes, look behind you. Yes, look in front of you.

Everybody in here has been placed at a moment in time where the choice they make would set the rest of their lives.

*Stephen Clay is pastor of Messiah Missionary Baptist Church.*

## AL-ISLAM IN AMERICA

# The Islamic New Year

By IMAM MIKAL SAAHIR

*"The number of months in the sight of Allah is 12 (in a year) - so ordained by him the day he created the heavens and the Earth."* - Holy Qur'an 9:36



Wednesday, Feb. 9, 2005, on the Islamic calendar converts to Muharram 01,1426. The Islamic calendar began when Prophet Muhammed was forced to migrate from Mecca to Medina for religious freedom. This migration, called hegira in Arabic, marks the beginning of the first Islamic society with laws, governance and democracy.

For 13 years, Prophet Muhammed, prayers and peace be on him, along with his followers were boycotted, beaten, and even tortured to death because they refused to worship the pagan idols in Mecca.

Leaving behind family, loved ones, livelihood, and their material goods, these early Muslims sacrificed all of these personal achievements just so they would be able to worship freely.

Migration for the glory and praise of G-d is not new. Moses and his followers had to do the same. Christ Jesus and his parents fled to Egypt. The Holy Qur'an encourages these types of forced migrations when there is no other option for the righteous.

The angels will ask the soul of the righteous who were persecuted and out of fear yielded to committing sins. Sura 4:97 states, "When angels take the souls of those who die in sin against their souls, they say: 'In what (plight) were ye?' They reply: 'Weak and oppressed were we in the earth.'" They say: "Was not the earth of Allah spacious enough for you to move yourselves away (from evil)? Such men will find their abode in hell, - What an evil refuge!"

The Islamic new year not only represents a fresh 12 months, it also - maybe more importantly - represents a fresh opportunity to serve G-d, and a fresh opportunity for all believers in human goodness to establish a democratic order.

When Prophet Muhammed

established his community in Medina, its occupants were of various faiths, including Christians and Jews. All of Medina's citizens were given the human rights, and Muhammed swore to protect the rights of everyone.

No calendar can begin until after the society has been established free of oppression and tyranny and able to enact the word of G-d in that society. Before migrating to Medina, the Muslims were unable to establish their community life. This is true for the Jewish calendar and the Christian (Gregorian) calendar.

Each New Year observation, whether Islamic, Jewish or Christian, should serve as a reminder to all believers that our societies are firmly established upon the word of G-d. The Jewish calendar dates back to the advent of Prophet Moses bringing revelation to his people, and the Christian calendar dates back to the advent of Christ Jesus, the word of G-d, being established among his followers.

The migration of protestant Europeans fleeing religious persecutions in Europe that was imposed on them by the Church of England is very similar to the migration of Prophet Muhammad to Medina. They too want to use G-d's spacious Earth to escape from persecution. They migrated for the pleasure of serving G-d, as they understood how their faith was to be lived. Many of them, before calling their new land America called their new home "New Jerusalem" in recognition of their faith motivating them.

Prophet Muhammed and his early companions were moving in that same artery. (Arteries carry renewed blood, and veins carry old blood) he was seeking a new life for his community of faithful, and each Islamic New Year is a reminder of that grand move of faith into their new home, and new life, all for the pleasure of Allah (G-d).

Author's note: Please accept the hyphenated spelling of God, as "G-d". We omit the letter "o" to avoid a spelling of our Creator that in reverse reads "dog".

Please submit questions to *Al-Islam in America*, C/O Imam Mikal Saahir, Nur-Allah Islamic Center, 2040 E. 46<sup>th</sup> St., Indianapolis, IN, 46205. Or e-mail: *nurallah-ic@juno.com*.

# Womack's Women in White Praise Breakfast



Womack Memorial C.M.E. Church hosted its annual Women in White Prayer and Praise Breakfast. From left: Rev. Henry L. Peterson, pastor of Womack; author and guest speaker, Fran-cine A. Yates; and her parents, Ernestine and Leonard Burnett.

Yates, who was voted Christian Author of the Year in 2003 by C&B Books, signs copies of her latest book, *Faith Holds the Key*. (Photos/C. Guynn)



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**Rev. Moses Day Jr. Pastor and Founder**  
**Rev. Ken Day, Assistant Pastor**

**Sunday, February 20, 2005**



**11:15 AM**  
**Rev. Moses Day Jr.**  
**Pastor, Grace MBC**



**3:30 PM**  
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HEALING  
► Continued from Page B1

HIV/AIDS.  
“We have found that the area with 46205 and 46208 zip codes is a hot spot concerning HIV/AIDS, which means there’s virtually no information, testing, or awareness,” said Hatcher. “We put this ministry in the heart of this area so that we may be more effective, especially in the Black community.”

Healing Ministry volunteers value individual privacy, but they also place a high importance on including family members in the process of spiritual, mental and physical revitalization.

“Serving a client is not enough, we must also educate their people so the stigma can be lifted,” stated Hatcher. “We bring the whole family unit in to get rid of any barriers and increase support so that clients can deal with the spiritual healing of HIV/AIDS or whatever they’re going through.”

Dee Moore, who has HIV and lost his job as a high powered business executive after falling into the cycle of drug addiction, understands how much of a blessing Healing Ministries can be to those who take the time to attend its gatherings.

I truly have been blessed by the worship services on Saturday, and I think the whole congregation can agree that Rev. Hatcher just meets us where we are and brings the word there,” Moore said. “This ministry has truly reached out to people in the community as Christ did. I encourage everyone to just come here and be yourself and work towards being released from that bondage.”

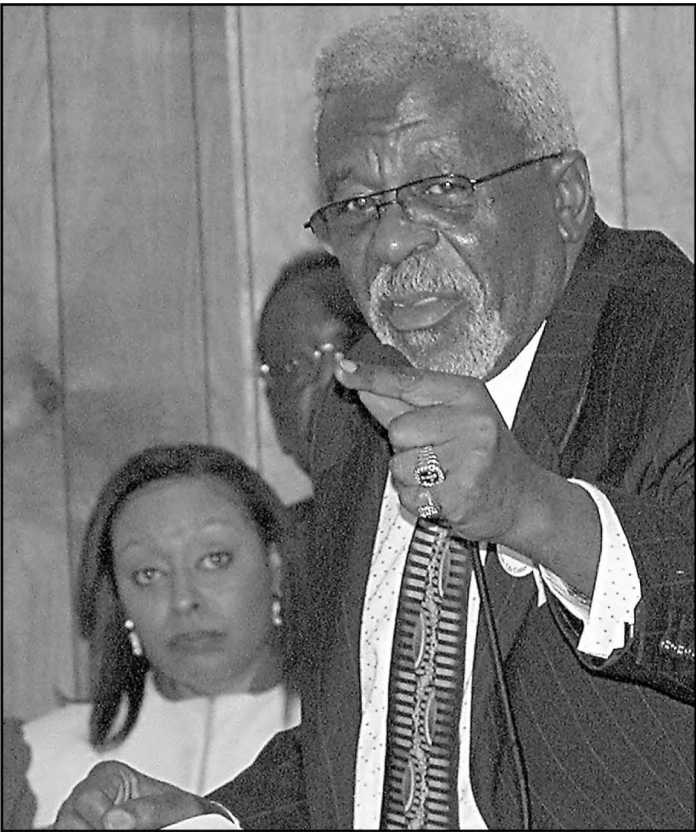
Both Moore and Hatcher noted that the assembly is a ministry, not a church, and that everyone is invited to participate, not just people with HIV/AIDS.

“I belong to a regular church, but I also come to the Healing Ministry because it has met other needs that I have,” added Moore. “They are here for anyone who may feel like they’re broken, disenfranchised or an outcast.”

“The main issue is to educate people and get them comfortable so they grow to a point in which their self image has improved and they are out of that denial state,” said Hatcher. “Our job is to get you strong enough and well enough to join a permanent congregation. We are the introduction to a new life and better assistance.”

For more information about Healing Ministries Inc. at Spiritual Awakening Tabernacle, call (317) 926-2694.

Celebration for Rev. Larry Hampton



The congregation of Mt. Zion Free Will Baptist Church recently hosted a fourth anniversary celebration for Rev. Larry Hampton. Rev. Curtis L. Vance (pictured), pastor of St. Luke Missionary Baptist Church, makes a point while delivering his sermon as the featured speaker. (Photo/J. Hurst)

SINGLES  
► Continued from Page B1

too often hurting people confine themselves to their own circumstances, get overwhelmed and end up getting mixed up in things that they shouldn’t in order to fill a void. But positive activities and positive people can go a long way in sustaining you.”

Rev. Samuel Sumner of Allen Chapel A.M.E. Church, who has been married 40 years, said he could not imagine a scenario in which he would be forced to look for a new wife.

“I probably wouldn’t do it after having enjoyed so much time together with my wife,” he said. “At this stage of my life I’m not interested in starting at square one again, and I know other men and

women who feel the same way.”

But Sumner acknowledged that divorcees and widowers who are still relatively young (20s-40s) will likely search for someone new because most individuals desire companionship as they get older.

“I would encourage younger individuals to be very prayerful about finding another companion,” he said. “If you are just coming out of a divorce or recovering from the death of your spouse there should be some time set aside for healing before you start looking to fill that void. We can sometimes make poor decisions when we rush this process.”

‘Rock Cries’ will be Feb. 26

The Etheridge Knight Gospel Music Theater will present the play “The Rock Cries” Feb. 26 at 4 p.m. at Scott United Methodist Church, 2153 Dr. Andrew J. Brown Ave.

“The Rock Cries” is the story of a fallen angel’s departure and return to heaven. The performance will include favorite Bible stories, including the man who didn’t die, through dance and songs. Music will range from Negro spirituals to hip-hop gospel. A freewill offering will be collected.

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PSALMS: 34:3

When: Sunday, February 20, 2005  
Where: Mt. Pilgrim Rev. Eaton (Pastor)  
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Member Orientation  
10:45 a.m.  
Worship Service  
Children’s Church

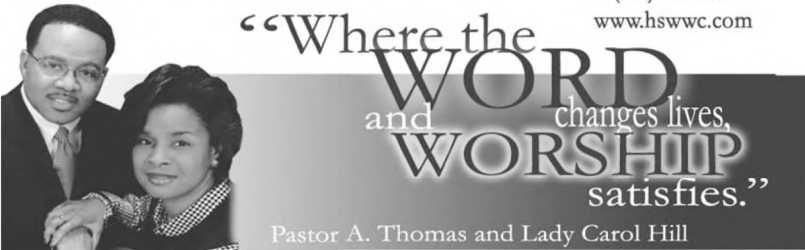
WEDNESDAY

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Please, provide your signature along with a contact phone number where you may be reached for potential follow-up questions.

A Chance to Testify



# Order Of Service

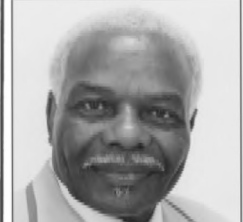
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**Sunday Morning Service**  
11:00 a.m.  
**YPWW Sunday**  
6:00 p.m.  
**Sunday Evening Service**  
7:00 p.m.  
**Tuesday Bible Study**  
7:00 p.m.  
**Friday Pastoral Teaching**  
7:00 p.m.

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Morning Service...11:15am  
Wednesday  
Prayer & Bible Study  
7:30pm

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Tuesday Bible Class  
.....7:00 PM

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9:50 a.m. Sunday School  
11:00 a.m. Worship Service  
Services Interpreted for the Deaf/Hard of Hearing

**Wednesday Service**  
6:30 p.m. Prayer and Praise  
7:15 p.m. Pastor's Bible Class

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Wednesday Prayer Meeting and Bible Study...7:00pm

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Sunday Worship 10:00 & 5:00 p.m.  
Mon. Men & Ladies Class  
Tues. Bible Study 10:00 a.m.  
Wed. Bible Study 7:00 p.m.  
Thurs. Home Bible Study  
Fri. 2nd & 4th couple to couple session  
Sat. Anger Management  
Sat. Radio Ministry AM 1310 1:00 p.m.

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Sunday Night 7:00PM  
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Sunday School 9:30AM  
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Wednesday Prayer & Bible Study 12 Noon and 7:00PM  
New Member Class Sun. 6:00PM  
As Announced

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Sunday Classes: 10:45am-11:45am  
Children's Church: 12:00pm  
Nursery Available

**TUESDAY NIGHT**  
Youth and Young Adult night  
6:00pm-6:30pm Youth Bible Study  
6:30-7:30pm Boys to Men  
Girls to Women

7:00pm-8:00pm Young Adult Study  
7:30pm-8:30pm Spirit of the Light Youth Choir Rehearsal  
8:30pm-9:00pm New Light Ensemble Young Adult Rehearsal  
8:00pm & 9:00pm Exercise Classes

#### WEDNESDAY

6:30pm-8:00pm Teaching with Tom Benjamin  
6:30pm-8:00pm Respect Program for the Children (5-12)  
Voices of the Light Choir Rehearsal: 8:00pm  
New Member's Class 5:45 - 6:30pm  
Childcare Available

#### SATURDAY

8:00am-9:00am Prayer Warriors

#### Radio Outreach Ministry

**Saturdays**  
Unity In the Community  
12 noon  
WTLC AM 1310 The Light  
**Sundays**  
Worship Service  
WTLC AM 1310 The Light  
10:00 a.m.

#### Television Outreach Ministry

**Saturdays**  
Living for the City  
WDNI Channel 65 at 9:00 a.m.  
**Sundays**  
Living for the City  
WRTV-6 at 5:30 a.m.  
Worship Service  
WHMB-TV Channel 40  
Walk In the Light at 3:00 p.m.



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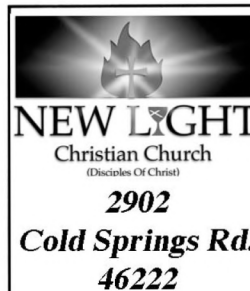


Mr. & Mrs.  
Charles W. Harris, Sr.  
Pastor & First Lady

Sunday School.....9:15AM  
Sunday Worship.....10:50AM  
Wed. Bible Study.....12nn-1P  
Wed. Bible Study.....7P-9P  
Thur. Marriage Classes. 7P-8P  
Fri. Drug Classes.....7P-8P

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.....12 NOON  
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Mark 16:15

And he said unto  
them,  
Go ye  
into all  
the world,  
and  
preach  
the gos-  
pel to  
every  
creature.

Revelation 3: 5-6  
KJV

He that overco-  
meth, the same  
shall be clothed  
in white raiment;  
and I will not blot  
out his name out  
of the book of life,  
but I will confess  
his name before  
my Father, and be-  
fore his angels. He  
that hath an ear,  
let him hear what  
the Spirit saith  
unto the churches.

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Pastor

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Sunday Morning  
Worship Service  
11:30 A.M.  
Tuesday Night  
Bible Study  
7:30 P.M.

In all thy ways acknowledge Him  
And He shall direct thy path.  
Proverbs 3:6

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James Missionary  
Baptist Church**  
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REV. E.E. RUSS,  
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Leave to Serve.

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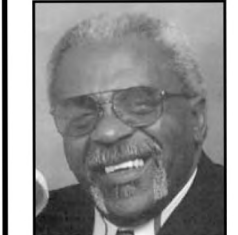
Sunday School- 9:30am  
Morning Worship-11:00am  
N.B.C. Hour Sunday-6:00pm  
Wed. Prayer Mtg Bible Study  
9:30am & 7:00pm  
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COVINGTON, SR.  
PASTOR  
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Church**  
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Rev. Curtis L. Vance  
Pastor

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8:30  
Sunday School  
10:00  
Morning Worship  
3:30  
\*Afternoon Worship  
6:00  
\*Evening Worship  
\*only when scheduled

#### Wednesday Services

7:00  
Prayer Service  
8:00  
Bible Class



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#### Northwest Campus

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Sunday Church School: 9:00-10:15 a.m.  
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Mon-Fri from 9:30-10:00 a.m. and WIJY Joy 96  
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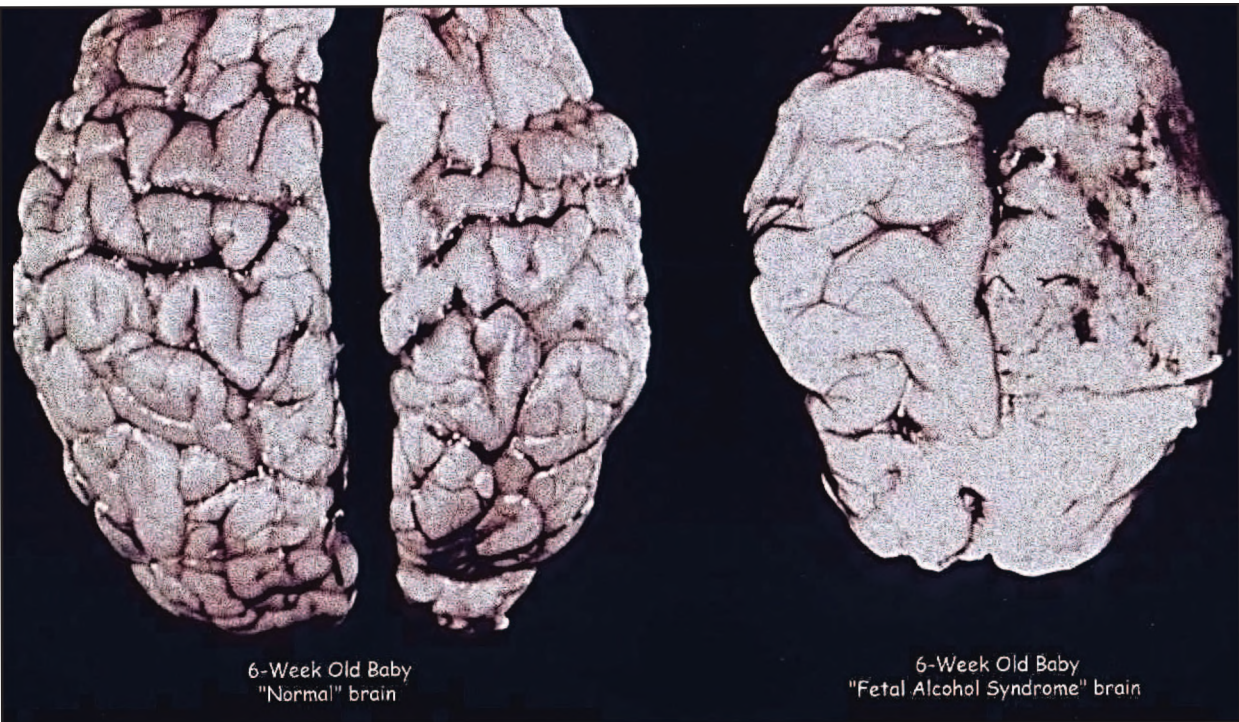
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# To Your Health



## Fetal Alcohol Syndrome has life-long effect on children

From KidsHealth.org

What is the leading known cause of mental and physical birth defects, surpassing both spina bifida and Down syndrome? Which drug produces more severe abnormalities in a developing fetus than heroin, cocaine, or marijuana?

The answer to both questions is the same: alcohol. Alcohol (wine, beer, or liquor) is the most common preventable cause of birth defects in the United States.

When a woman drinks alcohol during pregnancy, she risks giving birth to a child who will pay the price - in mental and physical deficiencies - for the rest of his life. Yet many pregnant women do drink alcohol, and it is estimated that one in every 750 infants is born with full-blown Fetal Alcohol Syndrome (FAS) each year in the United States. Another 50,000 children are born with Fetal Alcohol Effects (FAE) each year.

### Signs and symptoms of FAS

FAS is identified as a pattern of physical, developmental, and functional abnormalities in a child resulting from a woman's drinking alcohol during pregnancy. Characteristics of children with FAS include:

- Low birth weight
- Small head circumference
- Failure to thrive
- Developmental delay
- Organ dysfunction
- Facial abnormalities, including smaller eye openings, flattened cheekbones, and indistinct philtrum (an underdeveloped groove between the nose and the upper lip)
- Epilepsy
- Poor coordination/fine motor skills
- Poor socialization skills, such as difficulty building and maintaining friendships and relating to groups
- Lack of imagination or curiosity

• Learning difficulties, including poor memory, inability to understand concepts such as time and money, poor language comprehension, poor problem-solving skills

• Behavioral problems, including hyperactivity, inability to concentrate, social withdrawal, stubbornness, impulsiveness, and anxiety

Children with FAE display the same symptoms, but to a lesser degree, and are less likely to have mental retardation.

### Hidden handicap

It was not until 1973 that alcohol was officially recognized as a teratogen, a substance that can cause damage to a fetus. Today, FAS and FAE are still largely misunderstood by the general public.

Children with FAE are often at a disadvantage because they are frequently undiagnosed, says Georgiana Wilton, coordinator

► See COMMUNITY, Page C2

## Larry King Cardiac Foundation receives \$100,000 grant from Lilly to support 'Save a Heart a Day' Needy patients also will have access to medication through Lilly assistance program



WASHINGTON — The Larry King Cardiac Foundation (LKCF) announced a new partnership with Eli Lilly and Co. to help combat heart disease. In support of the foundation's ambitious goal to "save a heart a day," Lilly has committed to a \$100,000 grant as well as donation of the vital anti-thrombotic medication, ReoPro (abciximab) through Lilly's patient assistance program, Lilly Cares.

Under this program, eligible patients will receive product at no cost through Lilly Cares. This effort greatly enhances

the foundation's efforts to provide life-saving cardiac care for those who cannot afford it. Many of those individuals might not be alive today without the help of the foundation or they would be facing large medical bills.

"I was fortunate enough to have medical insurance cover my heart surgery and procedures," said Larry King, founder of the Larry King Cardiac Foundation and internationally renowned host of CNN's "Larry King Live."

"Heart disease takes the lives of 500,000 men and women annually in the United States. This funding and cardiac medication from Lilly is a big step in helping us save a heart a day," King said.

The anti-thrombotic, ReoPro is the foundation's first donation of medication. During angioplasty

procedures to open blockages in arteries that supply blood to the heart, ReoPro is used to help prevent formation of blood clots in the heart and help diminish clots that already have formed.

LKCF provides cardiac care and resources through affiliate partners for individuals who, due to limited means and inadequate insurance, would otherwise be unable to receive treatment. The foundation works in conjunction with hospitals throughout the nation to ensure that such patients receive proper medical attention.

"Lilly is pleased to be the first company to provide product to the Larry King Cardiac Foundation. This donation is part of our overall worldwide efforts to help indigent patients

have access to medications that save and improve lives," said Dr. Hunter Heath, executive director, U.S. Medical Division, Lilly. "It's particularly appropriate that we donate the cardiovascular drug ReoPro, which has helped save lives for 10 years now."

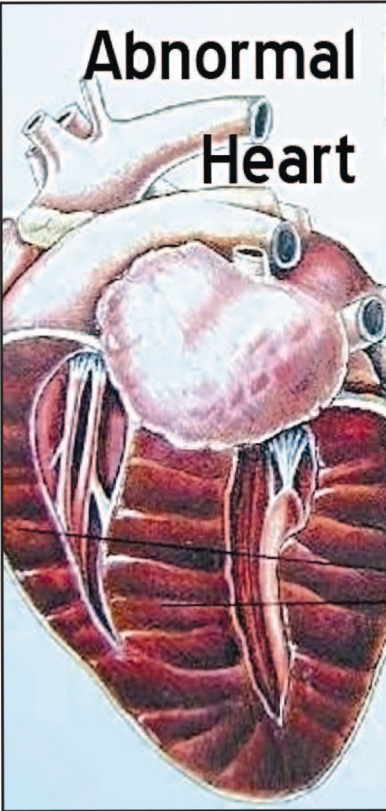
Dr. Heath said, "Cardiovascular disease is a leading killer today, and we are dedicated to working to improve the lives of people who suffer from this devastating disease."

Under the partnership, Lilly will work with medical centers participating in the LKCF affiliate care program to provide product to eligible patients through the Lilly Cares prescription assistance program. These hospitals include: Children's National Medical Center and

George Washington University Medical Center, both in Washington, D.C.; Cedars-Sinai Medical Center and Children's Hospital Los Angeles, both in Los Angeles; Weill Cornell Medical Center and New York Presbyterian Hospital, in New York.

ReoPro was developed by Centocor of Malvern, Pa., and is manufactured by Centocor, B.V., in Leiden, the Netherlands. Eli Lilly and Co. markets and distributes the product worldwide except in Japan.

For more information regarding the Larry King Cardiac Foundation, go to [www.lkef.org](http://www.lkef.org). Contact Linda Roth at [linda@lindarothpr.com](mailto:linda@lindarothpr.com). For more information on Lilly, contact Janice Chavers at [chaversjm@lilly.com](mailto:chaversjm@lilly.com).



## Happy Teeth = Healthy Smiles

Submitted by the Health Education, Promotion and Training Department of the Marion County Health Department

According to a most recent report from the U.S. Surgeon General, tooth decay is the most chronic childhood disease - five times more common than asthma and seven times more common than hay fever. The report further indicates that millions of school hours are lost each year for dental-related diseases.<sup>1</sup> This information proves that there is still a growing need for oral health education for parents and their children. Access to high-quality care and the growing need for affordable dental insurance is also a primary concern. The following information will provide you with some basic knowledge on oral health issues that primarily concern children.

Children's teeth are important at every age. Even before the baby arrives the mother's health plays an important role. A balanced diet is necessary for proper development of an unborn child. Teeth begin to form between the third and sixth month of pregnancy. The mother's own oral condition can affect the unborn child's development. By the age of three most children have a full set of primary teeth. Primary teeth are important for speaking, chewing, appearance and they also help guide the permanent teeth into position. A baby's gums and teeth should be cared for soon after the baby is born. After each feeding a wet gauze or cloth should be used to remove milk and foods.

Tooth decay can occur as soon as teeth appear. Baby bottle tooth decay is a serious form of decay among young children. This condition is caused by frequent and long exposures of an infant's teeth to liquids that contain sugar, such as milk, formula and fruit juices. An infant or child should never be put to bed for a nap or at night with a bottle that contains sugary liquids. If an infant must be comforted with a bottle at bedtime, it

should contain water only.

Regular dental visits are imperative. Children should be taken to see the dentist by his or her first birthday. Prepare your child for this appointment. Talking to your child in advance can make the first dental visit a pleasant adventure. Always speak positively about the visit. The dentist will examine your child's teeth and gums for cavities and other oral problems, explain how your child's teeth should be cleaned at home, how diet and eating habits affect the teeth and methods to ensure that your child gets the proper amount of fluoride.

A well-balanced diet is necessary for children's growth and development of the teeth, bones and soft tissues of the mouth. A child should eat a variety of foods from all five major food groups. Those food groups are:

- Fruit
- Vegetables
- Breads and Cereals
- Dairy
- Meats

Snacking should be limited. The more a child snacks the greater the chances of tooth decay. Hard and sticky candies and foods are considered unhealthy snacks. Because they stay in the mouth a long time, the enamel of the teeth is exposed to acid for a longer period of time, thus making the teeth a target for decay.

Children who receive a balanced diet get all the nutrients they need, with the exception of fluoride. Fluoride is effective in preventing tooth decay. It can even reverse microscopic cavities. Children get most of their fluoride protection by drinking fluoridated water. Children who drink water with fluoride from birth have up to 50 percent fewer cavities. Check with your dentist before giving your child any vitamin or supplement that contains fluoride.

On the chewing surfaces of the back teeth (molars), there are depressions and grooves which make these areas difficult to keep clean with brushing. To prevent decay in these areas a sealant (a white

or clear dental material) is placed. The sealant acts as a barrier, protecting the decay-prone areas of the back teeth from plaque and acid attacks.

Children are often injured during play or physical activities. When this occurs, the newly erupting adult teeth are frequently injured. When injury or trauma occurs to the teeth, the child should be taken to the dentist right away. If a permanent tooth is lost during play or physical activity, the tooth should be placed in warm milk or water and the child taken to the dentist immediately. Excess dirt or material should be shaken off. Do not wipe the tooth off. This could damage or remove root fibers, these fibers are important because they are needed to reconnect with the fibers that are in the tooth socket. Mouth protectors during sports activities can help protect your child's teeth and gums. Mouth protectors can be purchased at a relatively low cost at many sporting goods stores.

The Marion County Health Department's Oral Health Program provides direct dental services to Marion County residents. Services focus on eliminating disparities in oral health among the different racial and ethnic groups of Marion County. Prevention is the top priority.

Preventive services include examinations, routine cleanings, fluoride treatments, sealants, oral hygiene instructions, oral cancer screenings, and x-rays. Intervention services are provided as needed and includes fillings, emergency treatments and extractions.

For more information on any of these services, please contact the Oral Health Program health department at (317) 221-2329.

Oral Health in America: A Report of the Surgeon General. Office of the Surgeon General. Retrieved on January 16, 2002 from the World Wide Web: [www.surgeongeneral.gov/library/oralhealth/](http://www.surgeongeneral.gov/library/oralhealth/)

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<b>Cleo Blackburn Health Center</b> 2700 N. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Drive 931-4301	<b>School-based Dental Clinics</b> <b>Harcourt Elementary School</b> 7535 Harcourt Road <b>Harrison Hill Elementary School</b> 7540 E. 53rd Street
<b>Forest Manor Community Health Center</b> 3840 N. Sherman Drive 221-3013	<b>SmileMobile</b> Dental/Immunization Van
<b>Marott Center</b> 342 Massachusetts Avenue 221-3417	<b>Requests for dental services and educational presentations may be made through the dental program's main office at 221-2329.</b>
<b>Northeast District Health Office</b> 6042 E. 21st Street 221-7397	





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## FAS

► Continued from Page C1

dinator of the National Family Empowerment Network: Supporting Families Affected by FAS and FAE. This also applies to children with Alcohol-Related Neurodevelopmental Disorder (ARND), a recently recognized category of prenatal damage that refers to those children who exhibit only the behavioral and emotional problems of FAS/FAE, without any signs of developmental delay or physical growth deficiencies.

"These kids fall through the cracks and suffer for it," Wilton

says. "Their behavior can look like belligerence or obstinacy, when in fact the kids are acting out of their own limited understanding of what is expected of them." Wilton explains that although children with FAE or ARND may score well on intelligence tests, their behavioral deficits often interfere with their ability to succeed.

### Diagnosis and long-term effects

"Early diagnosis is essential," affirms Ronnie Jacobs of the Bergen

County, New Jersey Council on Alcohol and Drug Abuse. "We must remember that it's not that these kids are a problem, but that they have a problem. We need to change our mindset, because the children are not going to change. FAS, FAE, and ARND are lifelong conditions. There is no cure."

Psychologist Ann Streissguth, a pioneer in the field of FAS, has conducted numerous studies mapping the long-term effects of FAS/FAE. Her research shows that the problems associated with FAS actually intensify as children move into adulthood. A majority of the adults in her studies had mental health problems, experienced trouble with the law, and were unable to live independently.

Professionals who work on a daily basis with the families of FAS/FAE victims see important changes beginning to take place. "Recent research has led to an awareness of the importance of providing early intervention to children diagnosed with FAS," says Wilton. "Development and stimulation programs begun between birth and age 5 have made enormous differences."

### How much alcohol is too much?

It is clear that abusing alcohol during pregnancy is dangerous, but what about the occasional drink? How much alcohol constitutes too much during pregnancy? No evidence exists that can determine exactly how much alcohol ingestion will produce birth defects.

Individual women process alcohol differently. Other factors vary the results, too, such as the age of the mother, the timing and regularity of the alcohol ingestion, and whether the mother has eaten any food while drinking.

Many doctors believe that an occasional glass of wine during pregnancy presents no risk to the fetus. But as Linda Nicholson, a genetic counselor, points out, "We don't know how much alcohol is safe so we just say, 'Don't drink at all.'" Although full-blown FAS is the result of chronic alcohol use during pregnancy, FAE and ARND may occur with only occasional or binge drinking.

Because alcohol easily passes the placental barrier and the fetus is less equipped to eliminate alcohol than its mother, the fetus tends to receive a high concentration of alcohol, which lingers for longer periods than it would in the mother's system.



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## BOOKMARK

### Ask Not called great oration

By **KAM WILLIAMS**  
For The Recorder

(*Ask Not The Inauguration of John F. Kennedy and the Speech That Changed America* by Thurston Clarke, Henry Holt and Co. 272 pp., hardcover, \$25.)

"The world is very different now. For man holds in his mortal hands the power to abolish all forms of human poverty and all forms of human life... In your hands, my fellow citizens, more than in mine, will rest the final success or failure of our course... not as a call to bear arms... but a call to bear the burden of... a struggle against the common enemies of man: tyranny, poverty, disease and war itself..."

"And so, my fellow Americans: ask not what your country will do for you - ask what you can do for your country. My fellow citizens of the world, ask not what America will do for you, but what together we can do for the freedom of man... With a good conscience our only sure reward... let us go forth... knowing that here on Earth, God's work must truly be our own."

- JFK, January 20, 1961

\*\*\*\*\*

Believe it or not, there was a time when Inauguration Day was actually thought of as something more meaningful than the first opportunity of a president to rub his recent election victory in the face of his foes by squandering millions of taxpayer dollars on lavish invitation-only balls all over Washington, D.C., for his wealthiest supporters.

While some have at least come to question the wisdom of such decadent displays, nobody seems to care about the inauguration speech anymore.

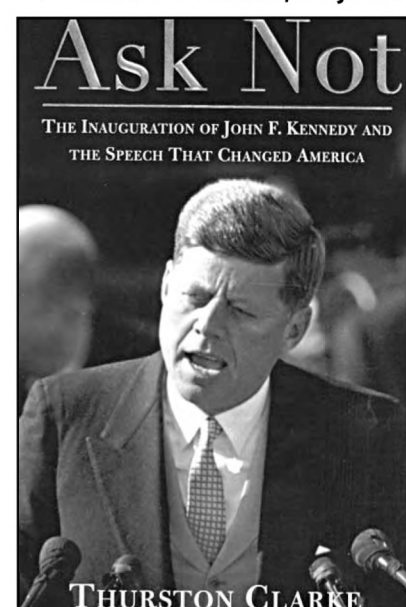
Regrettably, the populace now seems to expect nothing more than the readily-disposable equivalent of mental chewing gum, a meaningless, interchangeable address crafted by a team of hack speechwriters to be then read off a teleprompter by a president trained to imbue even the phone book with the same lackluster conviction.

It is for this reason that the inauguration speech delivered by John Fitzgerald Kennedy on Jan. 20, 1961, has taken on greater and greater historical significance over the years.

Rather than seeing it as a chance to fund-raise, party and gloat, JFK felt that this day represented his opportunity to set the nation's course with his own words and ideas. In fact, he considered it a serious enough responsibility that he wrote out the first draft in longhand before subsequently dictating passages to his secretary, Evelyn Lincoln, and reworking numerous revisions with his confidants and advisors.

And according to Thurston Clarke, the final version, the fourth shortest U.S. presidential inauguration speech ever, turned

► See **BOOKMARK**, Page C5



Joan Wright Lewis



Eric Jerome Dickey



E. Lynn Harris



Bebe Moore Campbell

## Advice for struggling first-time authors

By **ERICKA P. THOMPSON**  
Staff Writer

In the early 1990s, Omar Tyree caught the wave of new Black authors and rode it to perfection.

"I came out right when Terry McMillan started to blow up and books were fresh and new at the time, and so I just rode the wave," Tyree said. "I was lucky to be in front of the wave instead of in the middle of it or in the back of it. All of us did well back then."

The "all of us" Tyree refers to includes elite authors E. Lynn Harris, Eric Jerome Dickey, Bebe Moore Campbell and Walter Mosley. Each was instrumental in showing publishing companies that there was a demand for African-American fiction and they were talented enough to supply it.

"It wasn't difficult at all for me to get started," Tyree said. "I started in 1992 before the big rush of white publishers picking up Black authors. It was perfect timing when we

had Black expo events all across the country and it wasn't a lot of competition."

For today's Black authors it's the complete opposite. Competition is fierce and there is more than enough supply to meet the demand.

Pocket Books, a subsidiary of powerhouse publishing company Simon and Schuster, receives over 100 manuscripts every month and they reject 90-95 percent of them says Maggie Crawford, vice president and editorial director.

"We are very selective in what we buy," she said. "When we purchase manuscripts we look for a distinctive, narrative voice and a fresh story."

The selectiveness of such publishing companies overflows many new authors' mailboxes with rejection letters, which forces them to seek other options.

Some launch their own publishing companies like Joan Wright Lewis did in 1989 with JoVal Publishing.

Lewis, 47, began writing novels in her early 20s and she had experienced several struggles trying to get her novels published and

promoted. She's written three, *How to Grow Long Glorious Hair*, *How to be Popular* and her latest *Chocolate Princess*.

"Author House published Chocolate Princess but I had to pay them for it so it took close to a year to save the money. That was a struggle in itself," Lewis said. "But I'm responsible for marketing, they can do it but I would have to pay them for it and since I don't have the money I've been doing it myself."

Lewis, a wife and mother of two daughters, says it's difficult to convince people that her books are good enough to purchase, which adds to her struggle.

"People that know me say, 'wow, you wrote a book? I'll buy it.' People that don't know me will flip through the pages and say, 'sure, I'll buy it.' But they never do," she said. "I'm going to keep trying."

Tyree who has been riding his wave for over 10 years tells new authors to, "Keep writing. Continue to go to expo events and keep doing book signings."

If you're wondering what your book may be lacking every time

you receive a rejection letter from a publisher it can be a number of things says Crawford.

"Every manuscript is different but sometimes the story isn't sufficiently fresh, it seems a little too familiar and predictable," she said. "Authors would have to work on creating a more innovative and exciting plot. Or sometimes the story is too fast paced, sometimes the characters aren't sufficiently developed or they're not sufficiently sympathetic, people we can generally relate to."

Crawford says that although Pocket House rejects more than it accepts, they do publish first-time novelists, especially in the romance and chicklit publishing programs.

"Chicklit stories are always great," she said. "They're reverent, fun novels about young women encountering all sorts of challenges in love, work and among friends."

But through it all you have to stay motivated.

"You can't teach motivation," Tyree said. "It just has to be in you."

## COMMENTARY

### Black history in film – African-American actors don't have to take demeaning roles

By **DARRYL JAMES**  
Electronic Urban Report



Darryl James

It's Black History Month all over the nation, so I thought it appropriate to provide a Black history lesson.

In the movie "Hollywood Shuffle," film maker Robert Townsend attempted to deal with Blacks who play demeaning roles in films just to get paid. Townsend's character admonished the "sellouts" with the tagline: "There is always work at the post office."

That statement is very true indeed. The defending line for every demeaning role in the history of film, from Hattie McDaniel all the way to the new "Blaxploitation" era of today is that for many Black actors, these are the only roles available. Yet, no one is forced to take a demeaning role in film, or to work for wages not to scale and in fact, there have been Blacks participating in the independent side of film for a very long time.

The difference between African-Americans and nearly every other ethnic group in America is that we have done a poor job of controlling our own image. We can take control of our own image by taking control of the manufacturing and distribution of our own films.

For all the ranting and raving I do about Black-owned businesses and how integration hurt us in many ways, I always get confused looks and questions from the people who have no idea that we were making things happen in a real way

when we had real Black communities with real Black commerce.

One such shining example was a Black man from Metropolis, Ill., named Oscar Micheaux, who in 1919, made his own full-length feature film from his novel called "The Homesteader." He was the first African American to do so, and served as inspiration for Townsend, as well as Spike Lee, Tim Reid and Carl Franklin, among other filmmakers.

The son of former slaves, Micheaux worked in Chicago as a shoe shine boy while pursuing his dream of being a writer, moving to South Dakota, where he penned several novels, formed his own publishing company and sold copies of his books door to door.

Please read carefully, because while this story is nearly obscure, it should serve as inspiration for every Black person in America today with a dream.

During Micheaux's era, most of the films made were silent, and for the most part, Blacks were silent as well as invisible, save for the buck-dancing, shuffling, demeaning images of self-effacing actors such as Hattie McDaniel and Lincoln Perry, also known as Stepin' Fetchit.

Our very relationship with film was initiated with the early "classic," "Birth of a Nation." The "talkies" ushered in the era of Blacks as weak buffoons and idiots or manly mammies when most of the actors were dark-skinned Negroes who continuously bucked their eyes for outlandish comedic and demeaning effect.

Actor Ving Rhames, Keenan Ivory Wayans and other confused Negroes have been outspoken about calling Stepin' Fetchit a hero, claiming that the shuffling, foolish actor from the early days of film opened doors for today's Black actors. What doors were opened by an embarrassment who claimed his fame by bucking his eyes out of his head in childlike fear, or by speaking in a

slow, dull-witted cartoonish voice, designed to provide comedy relief to racists?

There were real doors opened for Blacks, but they came in the form of high quality films with Blacks as protagonists in respectable roles, written by a Black man named Oscar Micheaux. Micheaux understood the game and as an entrepreneur, knew that he would have to start his own film company in order to get his stories to film. He did just that and launched a successful film business with more than 43 movies to his credit.

Micheaux's film business was just that - a business. He hired all of the actors, made the movies and even handled his own distribution to the 700 plus Black theaters in existence in the nation at that time. Do I have to repeat that there were more than 700 Black theaters in existence before integration?

Currently, Earvin "Magic" Johnson is revolutionary for attempting to rebuild what once was, taking theaters into parts of Black America which haven't held first-run theaters in decades. His revolution is to build the future by revisiting the past.



Hattie McDaniel

Today, generations after Micheaux's revolution in film making, it makes no sense for anyone to say that they are taking a demeaning role because there is nothing else, or that they have to avoid their dream because it is simply unavailable. Micheaux was not a rich man, but he was able to accomplish his dreams by relying on resources found within his own community.

In order to generate funding for his films, Micheaux began shopping the concept of an all-Black film to the Black theaters and asking for payment in advance, which he would use to make the film.

Micheaux wanted to make Black films with positive roles for Black actors. Think about that the next time you are in front of the television when the new "house n-----" make everyone laugh on UPN or when the latest film featuring Blacks over-exaggerating their own behavior for a punchline rolls through Hollywood for a belly laugh at us.

If we were controlling our own images, we would not have to worry about what anyone thinks about us. We would be the heroes as well as the villains, the lovers as well as the thieves and defining those roles ourselves.

Further, the good roles wouldn't be relegated to a handful of shining Black princes and princesses who refuse to clown their race for a punchline and a paycheck.

As I always assert, if we wish to move beyond our present, we have only to revisit our past. Let's make Black history a part of the Black future.

Darryl James is an award-winning author and the founder of Rap Sheet, the only Black owned rap music publication. James' latest book, *Bridging the Black Gender Gap*, is the basis of his lectures and seminars. James can be reached at [djames@theblackgendergap.com](mailto:djames@theblackgendergap.com).

### R&B great Tyrone Davis dies at 66

By **KAREN E. PRIDE**  
Special to the NNPA  
From the Chicago Defender

CHICAGO (NNPA) — Legendary rhythm and blues soul singer Tyrone Davis, who vaulted to fame with hits such as "Can I Change My Mind" and "Turn Back the Hands of Time," died recently at a hospital in west suburban Hinsdale. He was 66.

Surrounded by family and friends, Davis' death comes four months after suffering a stroke, which doctors said was made worse by him being a diabetic. He had remained in the hospital since October until his release last week.

"He went so gently and peacefully," his wife, Ann Davis, told the Chicago Defender. "I want to thank all his fans who supported us, especially during these last months."

Considered the "king of romantic Chicago Soul" - a survey on Billboard Magazine named him the 30th best R&B singer of all time - Davis' smooth and versatile baritone voice could handle everything from pop to soul to funk and blues.

Otis Clay, a fledgling gospel singer when he met Davis, said the two struck up a friendship that has lasted 44 years.

Clay said, "He was like a brother to me, and I don't mean that in a loose sense." Clay said that they had made a pact early on that whichever one of them made it big first, he would pull the other one up with him.

"He got his when he recorded 'Can I Change My Mind' in 1968," said Clay. "Mine came about a year earlier with a tune called 'That's How It Is,' but people only remembered the line 'slap some sense in me.'"

Davis' 1968 hit showcased his lovelorn pleading to full effect and the song went all the way to No. 1 on the R&B charts, and reached the pop Top Five as well.

Over his four-decade career, Davis recorded 38 albums. His last, "The Legendary Hall of Fame" - was released in September.

The singer's stylish class made him especially popular with female soul fans during a lengthy hit-making run that lasted throughout the '70s and '80s.

But Davis was a family man.

He married Ann at St. John's Community Baptist Church in Chicago 42 years ago, and the union produced five children.

She said that one of the things she really enjoyed with her husband was their trips together.

"We went to Bellinzona, Switzerland, in 2002," she said. "We said that if we were 20 years younger, we would move to that place. We had wonderful vacations."

According to a news release, Davis was born May 4, 1938, in Greenville, Miss. He moved to Chicago in 1959, eventually working "as a valet and chauffeur for bluesman Freddie King."

Chicago's soul and blues scene was rich with a plethora of singers, and Davis quickly became friends with the likes of Clay, Little Milton and Bobby "Blue" Bland, performing in clubs on the city's west and south sides.

Davis hit the R&B Top 40 with steady regularity in the 1970s, including the Top Tens "Could I Forget You," "I Had It All the Time," "Without You in My Life," and "There It Is."

In 1975, he scored his third number one R&B hit with "Turning Point."



Tyrone Davis



# Bernie Mac has rare autoimmune condition

Electronic Urban Report

Bernie Mac, the star of Fox's "The Bernie Mac Show," issued a statement through his publicist that he has sarcoidosis, a rare autoimmune disease that causes inflammation of the body's tissues, most frequently in the lungs, reports E!.

"I've had sarcoidosis since 1983, and it has not altered or limited my lifestyle," Mac said in the statement. "No one knows where sarcoidosis comes from or where it starts, and there's no known cause for this condition that effects primarily minorities."

The 46-year-old comedian was hospitalized last summer for what initially was described by a Fox rep as "exhaustion," but has since been revealed by Mac's spokesman as "double pneumonia which weakened his lungs and his entire immune system, and the sarcoidosis symptoms became pronounced."

Sarcoidosis can be fatal in about five percent of cases, and was cited as the cause of death for NFL great Reggie White last December. Hall of Fame basketball player Bill Russell also suffers from the disorder.

Mac's publicist, Matt Labov, explains that sarcoidosis is a "treatable illness and not deadly." In his statement, Mac says: "I still walk, play basketball and do normal things ... Since sarcoidosis hasn't slowed me down, then it shouldn't be a concern for others."

The Chicago native says he has visited several sarcoidosis patients at La Rabida Hospital in Chicago.

"I'll be devoting my summer to creating the Bernie Mac Foundation. Through my ongoing and private efforts, I'm organizing a golf tournament in Chicago, and the proceeds will be given to different sarcoidosis organizations," he said. "I hope to announce further details about this soon."



# Will Smith's 'Hitch' is trifle comedy

Smith's enormous charm carries the movie much of the way, buoyed by scene-stealing moments from Kevin James as a lovelorn accountant.

Smith's Alex "Hitch" Hitchens is a master at hooking up geeks with mates seemingly light years out of their reach.

Hitch only takes on decent guys as clients, men who will treat a woman like a queen through a lifetime of commitment. And while he does coach his pupils through Cyrano de Bergerac-like pretense, there is no malicious deceit involved.

Hitch simply opens the door to romantic possibilities and counts on the essential goodness of his disciples to seal the deal.

"With no guile and no game, there is no girl," is one of Hitch's many pithy mottoes.

For all his optimism on others' behalf, Hitch has closed himself off to the prospect of romance because of a painful love affair that left him crying in the rain years earlier. An awkward flashback presents the story, which lacks conviction as to why such a self-assured man cannot rebound from a garden-variety heartbreak.

When Hitch finally meets his own dream woman, gossip columnist Sara Melas (Mendes), she turns out to be as cynical about personal romance as he. Hitch's ploys to catch Sara's eye, and the clever but calamitous first date he plans, offer some brightly refreshing moments in the tired boy-meets-girl genre.

The movie quickly loses that momentum as "Hitch" begins to wallow in superficial romantic mush. And rather than letting the story develop authentically from Hitch and Sara's innate

resistance to intimacy, the filmmakers try to forcibly inject dramatic friction by creating professional discord between the lovers.

After this clunky artifice, Hitch and Sara's relationship becomes more and more antic-oriented, devolving into bad slapstick and dialogue that includes some literal gibberish during the prolonged finale.

Far more engaging is the undercard romance involving Hitch's client Albert Brennaman ("King of Queens" star James), a meek, tubby accountant smitten by beautiful heiress Allegra Cole (Amber Valletta).

James displays wonderful flair for broad physical comedy while instilling depth and pathos into a character that on the page would read as a one-dimensional loser. Valletta likewise makes Amber's passion for this portly nobody believable; as Sara observes while spying on them at a Knicks game, Albert and Amber are adorable together.

Also in its favor, "Hitch" makes fine use of New York settings, including Ellis Island, trendy lower Manhattan and the Hudson River waterfront.

Because this is a Will Smith flick, and a romance opening over Valentine's weekend to boot, audiences will jam theaters for "Hitch." But it's a shaky transition from action movies to love stories for Smith when he's outshone by both his surroundings and a pudgy bean-counter.

"Hitch," released by Sony's Columbia Pictures, is rated PG-13 for language and some strong sexual references.

# Ray Charles 'Genius' dominates Grammy Awards

By BlackAmericaWeb and Associated Press

The late, great Ray Charles got a final shower of love and appreciation at the 47th annual Grammy Awards, held Sunday night at the Staples Center in Los Angeles. The "Genius of Soul" received a total of eight Grammy awards for his final album, "Genius Loves Company," and his wins came in categories ranging from the technical - like Best Engineered Album and Best Surround Sound Album - to gospel, pop and both Album and Record of the Year.

Much like his career, the album Charles recorded in the last months of his life spans soul, rock 'n' roll, R&B, country, jazz and blues. It won Album of the Year and Best Pop Album; his pairing with Gladys Knight, "Heaven Help Us All," won Best Gospel Performance; and his song "Here We Go Again," with Norah Jones, won Record of the Year and Best Pop Collaboration with Vocals.

Following is a partial list of winners:

**Rap Album:** "The College Dropout," Kanye West.

**R&B Album:** "The Diary of Alicia Keys," Alicia Keys.

**Male R&B Vocal Performance:** "Call My Name," Prince.

**Reggae Album:** "True Love," Toots and The Maytals.

**Traditional World Music Album:** "Raise Your Spirit Higher," Ladysmith Black Mambazo.

**Instrumental Arrangement Accompanying Vocalist(s):** "Over the Rainbow," Victor Vanacore, arranger (Ray Charles & Johnny Mathis), from "Genius Loves Company."

By DAVID GERMAIN  
AP Movie Writer

Will Smith waited a long time to bring his bottomless charisma to a romantic comedy. He should have waited longer, at least until the many hitches were ironed out of "Hitch," an occasionally cute trifle that had all the ingredients to be a great date flick.

Instead, "Hitch" offers a few laughs and the odd smarter-than-average romantic exchange between Smith and co-star

Eva Mendes before veering into a foolish plot conflict that drains all credibility and chokes off whatever goodwill the movie built up in its first half.

With no clear notion of where to take the story, director Andy Tennant ("Sweet Home Alabama") and first-time screenwriter Kevin Bisch let "Hitch" meander to tiresome lengths and force the lead players to stumble through a sappy conclusion that drags on interminably.

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BOOK MARK  
► Continued from Page C3

out to be “the greatest oration of any 20th century American politician.” Which is why Clarke, the author of eight other books (including Pearl Harbor Ghosts), has seen fit to revisit every aspect of its construction in Ask Not.

The book reminds us that Kennedy’s “belief in a higher purpose” and “conviction that every individual could contribute” resonated within the souls of the American people because it spoke to the need to live for loftier ideals than mere material gain.

JFK’s affirmation of the value of each person’s life combined with his clarion call to action is said to have appealed to the spiritual strain in the country’s character in a way, which helped inspire the social revolution of the ‘60s, which would survive his assassination.

While 272 is a lot of pages to devote to the dissection of about 1,300 words, it’s a worthwhile read for those curious about an age when substance was more important than image or nostalgic for a hands-on leader who cared more about the common man than corporate interests.

Black History program

WTHR Channel 13 will broadcast a special hour-long program Feb. 19 at 2 p.m., profiling some of the most fascinating and unique African Americans in our nation’s history.

“American Legacy Television,” hosted by actor Tim Reid, highlights African Americans who changed the outcome of world wars, settled the West, fueled scientific discoveries, helped map the globe and more.

Indiana Avenue gets funding

The Indianapolis Cultural Development Commission has awarded the Indiana Avenue Cultural District a \$63,750 grant to develop a Destination Redevelopment Blueprint Plan. The plan will outline the physical, architectural, programmatic and marketing aspects of the district as a tourist and cultural destination.

The district completed a

ENTERTAINMENT BRIEFS

plan last year that outlined six key strategies to move the district forward. One of the key strategies calls for a Destination Redevelopment Blueprint Plan that will showcase the vitality and appeal of the district. The plan will be a collaborative effort of district stakeholders with BOS Community Development Corp. as the fiscal agent.

Historical presentation

The Indiana African American Genealogy Group (IAAGG) will host its monthly genealogical/historical themed presentation Feb. 19 from 1-3 p.m. at the Indiana State Library, Data Center second floor, 100 N Senate Ave.

Reginald Temple and Andrew Bowman will be the presenters. The theme will focus on the Civil War. This event is free and open to the public.

NCNW fellowship dinner

The National Council of

Negro Women Inc. will host its annual Black History Fellowship Dinner Feb. 27 at the Marten House, 1801 W. 86th St. from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m.

The dinner will feature guest speaker City-County Councilman Rozelle Boyd. Donations from The NCNW Black History Fellowship Dinner will fund the Willa E. Thomas award that is given to a college bound member of the NCNW junior division. Tickets are a donation of \$30 each.

Chimp exhibit at Children’s Museum

The Children’s Museum of Indianapolis delves deep into the world of the chimpanzee with the special exhibition “Discovering Chimpanzees: The Remarkable World of Jane Goodall,” open now through May 30 at the museum, 3000 N. Meridian St.

The museum is open Tuesday through Sunday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission is \$7 for children 2-17, \$12 for adults, \$11 for seniors 60 and over and free for chil-

dren under 2.

For more information contact the museum at (317) 334-3322.

**Kafé Kuumba**

Midtown Writers Association Inc.’s Kafé Kuumba Thursday Night Open Mic at Big Fella’s Family Restaurant, 3469 N. College Ave., from 6 - 9 p.m. is still running. Bring your drum and your poetry and join every Thursday night. Admission is free.

2005 Jazz Song Fest

The Asante Children’s Theatre presents the 2005 Jazz Song Fest, an exploration and celebration of jazz with song, dance and spoken word at the Indiana History Center, 450 W. Ohio St. Feb. 25-27 and March 3-6.

Tickets are \$10 in advance and \$12 at the door. For tickets call (317) 297-0020. The Asante Children’s Theatre is celebrating its 15th season. For more information on the theater, visit [www.asante-childrenstheatre.org](http://www.asante-childrenstheatre.org).

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Year old TV One has ambitious plans for programming

Electronic Urban Report

TV One, to borrow a line from Jay-Z, is strictly for the “grown and sexy.” The year-old network, birthed from the largest African-American owned media company Radio One and Comcast cable, has said it will live and die by its three-word mantra: “African-American Adults,” says Executive VP, Programming and Production Lee Gaither.

But this doesn’t mean that TV One will be completely hip-hop free.

“I think that by the nature of what adult viewers like to consume, you’re going to have music programming, which is going to be R&B-based primarily, and hip-hop itself is 30 years old, so there absolutely is a place for it on our air,” says Gaither. “It’s about being inclusive.”

Chef Gerry Garvin hosts “Turn Up the Heat with G. Garvin,” a cooking show with much back porch flavor that anchors TV One’s budding lineup of original programming. The Atlanta native cut his teeth on food preparation as a child hanging around his single mama as she worked in the kitchen of Atlanta’s Jewish Home of the Aging. After learning his craft in kitchens around the world, he now runs his own G. Garvin’s restaurant in Los Angeles.

“Food has really changed my life,” says Garvin. “After 25 years in the business, I still don’t mind

going to work every day.

The chef gives the same enthusiasm to the dishes he prepares each week on “Turn Up the Heat.”

“For television, you have to explain it to people in a way that they’re not going to be bored,” says Garvin. “You have to explain it so that people can do it and you have to also deliver the message from the network. There are notes and there are points that you have to hit, so you have to really understand the dish, understand what the network wants and then deliver it in a way that people are interested in it.”

Infusing the same down-home energy into her “Washington Post” syndicated financial columns is Michelle Singletary, a mother of three who will bring her straightforward, personal approach to “financial serenity” into a weekly series for TV One entitled “Single-tary Says.”

community in serving the community, the programs that they try to facilitate to their members,” notes Burdon, who also stars in the upcoming Vin Diesel movie “The Pacifier.”

Burdon said, “That’s why the renovation is important to them. For example, we’ve done a church where we put a kitchen in it. It didn’t have one. It was a storage room. And with this kitchen now, they’re able to feed 100 people on the weekends. They’re able to have programs for children who are learning the Bible.”

TV One will also have a symbiotic relationship with Radio One that will involve radio talent and TV talent moving back and forth as needed between the mediums.

“We have some shows in early development that are actually going to be piloted over the next six months or so that are actually linkages between the TV area and the radio arena; people who dream to be radio hosts, having a competition on air where essentially we pick the next radio host for Radio One, stuff like that that’s in very, very, very early stages,” Gaither says.

Notice we haven’t mentioned that other African-American network. The question, however, must be asked. Is the cable universe big enough for two Black-themed channels?

“I see very little overlap between BET’s programming and our programming,” says TV One President and CEO Johnathan Rodgers. “In fact, I see, within the cable industry and the satellite industry, room for two or three or four or five more other African-American channels. There’s room for the Black Family Channel. There’s room for an African-American kids channel. We just have not served the African-American community very well, and hopefully this is just another step as we try to correct that wrong.”

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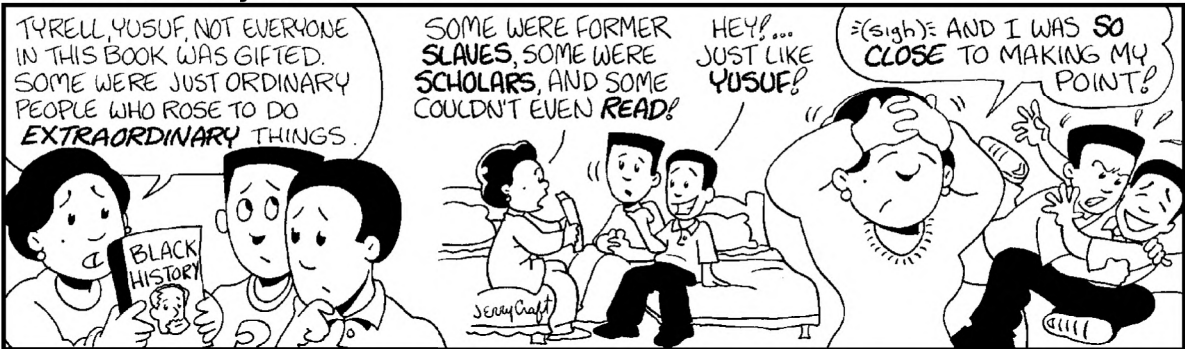
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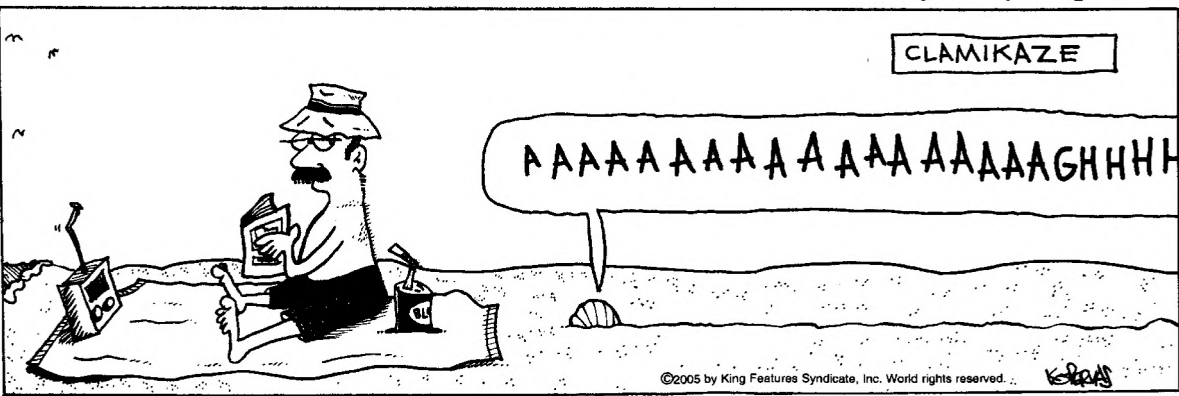
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23 Start of a remark  
26 Fluff the flour  
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28 Composer Satie  
29 Majors or Marvin  
30 Layers  
32 Had kittens?  
33 Postern and portcullis  
36 Main squeeze  
37 "— culpa"  
39 Heavenly hunter  
40 "I bet!"  
41 Part 2 of remark  
46 Faux —  
49 Fireworks reaction  
50 "— Boulevard" ('50 film)  
51 They may be rolled
- 52 Billings or Mostel  
53 Neighbor of Miss.  
54 "— Blade" ('96 film)  
55 Leans  
57 It's taken by nurses  
58 Sharp taste  
60 Skater Midori  
61 Wine choice  
62 Nabokov novel  
63 Kukla's colleague  
65 Part 3 of remark  
68 Fail to mention  
69 Tedious  
71 Sues or Shepard  
72 Boathouse item  
74 Objectives  
77 Take on  
78 Pack of partridges  
80 Like many gyms  
82 Cornfield  
83 Calcium oxide  
84 Non-stereo  
85 Peaceful  
86 Chemist Ramsen  
87 Singer Joey  
88 Part 4 of remark
- 92 Heady quaffs  
93 Respond to an alarm?  
94 "Ask — Girl" ('59 film)  
95 Fop's neckwear  
98 Marsh bird  
99 Facts, for short  
102 Georgia athletes  
103 Brit. fliers  
104 Way to go?  
105 Clean-air org.  
108 Serenade accompani- ment  
109 End of remark  
115 Fragrance  
116 Peace of mind  
117 "My word!"  
118 Swimmer Gertrude  
119 "Circus Boy" prop  
120 Prophet  
121 Lore role  
122 Triangular sail
- DOWN  
1 Spoke out  
2 —  
3 Romeo  
4 — shui  
5 Medieval weapon  
6 Grenoble's river  
7 Walrus weapon  
8 Meyers of "Kate & Allie"  
9 NCO  
10 It may be major  
11 Fatheads  
12 — bloomer  
13 "Yuck!"  
14 Mehta and Muti  
15 Iraqi city  
16 Homeric work  
17 Cool  
18 Base stuff?  
24 Bream of baseball  
25 Actress Graft  
31 "— Angel" ('60 smash)  
32 "Pshaw!"  
33 "Peer Gynt" composer  
34 Non- standard contraction  
35 "Mazel —!"  
36 Fills the bill  
37 Dough  
38 Wharton work  
39 "Smilla's Sense —" ('97 film)  
40 Actuary's fig.  
41 Ditch under a drawbridge
- 42 Road curve  
43 Decree  
44 Step — (hurry)  
45 Nick of "The Deep"  
46 Party animal?  
47 Guy Fri.  
48 Queens stadium  
52 Raul of "The Addams Family"  
55 At present  
56 Rock's — Butterfly  
57 Petite pooch  
59 Bellyache  
61 Journalist Ernie  
62 Mime Yarnell  
64 Picnic crasher?  
66 Devastation  
67 Fashionable event  
69 Like Mus- sorgsky's mountain  
70 Garfield's pal  
73 Actor Guinness  
75 Tie the knot  
76 Fluctuate  
78 Telescope view  
79 Responsi- bility  
80 Wired
- 81 — Plaines, IL  
84 Exemplar of slowness  
85 Cut cuticles  
88 Cut coupons  
89 "84 Charing Cross Road" author  
90 Psychic Geller  
91 — Paulo, Brazil  
95 Uncouth  
96 Boca —, FL  
97 Ward off  
98 Morley of "60 Minutes"  
99 Charged atom  
100 Puzo product  
101 Singer Payne  
102 Ink stain  
103 Trick  
104 Carthaginian queen  
105 Raison d'—  
106 Soccer superstar  
107 Mideastern gulf  
110 — kwon do  
111 Jewel  
112 Inflatable item?  
113 Use a shuttle  
114 Lepidopter- ist's need

Answers on Page C5

What are you and your kids doing this Presidents’ Day?

Why not take them to the Children’s Museum of Indianapolis where they can have a day of fun and stimulate their mind?

*Learning Can Be Fun and Knowledge Is Power.... What does you child have to loose?*

*Monday, February 21st, The Children’s Museum of Indianapolis is offering FREE admission to everyone from 10am-8pm courtesy of Charter Bank.*

Indy's R&B Leader **WTLC** 106.7 FM

106.7 WTLC FM's "First Lady" Khris Raye will be broadcasting Live from 10am-2pm.

*\*\*Special guests: Indianapolis Colts' Head Coach Tony Dungy will be appearing with a mystery player.*

Indy's R&B Leader **WTLC** 106.7 FM

Indy's Music Channel Schedule								
Antenna Channel-65				Cable Channel-99				
TIME	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT	
12:00-5:00AM	Indy's Music Channel							
6:00AM	IMC	Wake Up Y'All					World Of Shop	
6:30AM	Kingdom Builders						Home Shopper	
7:00AM	Harding St. Church						Direct Shopping	
7:30AM	St. Lukes Church						Shop Showcase	
8:00AM	Mt. Zion						The Amos Brown Show	
8:30AM	Prophet 3H	Mornings on IMC					Living for the City	
9:00AM	The Word & More						AM Black Forum	
9:30AM	Rock Community							
10:00AM	Revival Temple	Amos Brown Show				R.O.A.R. Recorder On Air Report	Indy's Music Channel	
10:30AM	Friendship Mission							
11:00AM	IMC Gospel Showcase	Indy's Music Channel					Indy's Music Channel	
11:30AM								
NOON								
12:30PM								
1:00PM								
1:30PM	Prophet 3H	Indy's Music Channel					Indy's Music Channel	
2:00PM								
2:30PM								
3:00PM	R.O.A.R. Recorder On Air Report	The Rock Block					Indy's Music Channel	
3:30PM								
4:00PM								
4:30PM	Direct Shopping	IMC Instant Access with Deacon					Indy's Music Channel	
5:00PM	Gtr. One Way							
5:30PM	The Word & More							
6:00PM	Friendship Mission	Hip Hop Rhythm & Vibes with DJ Wreck 1					Indy's Music Channel	
6:30PM	Prophet 3H							
7:00PM	Revival Temple							
7:30PM	Direct Shopping							
8:00PM	Kingdom Builders	Indy's Music Channel					Indy's Music Channel	
8:30PM	Word & More							
9:00PM	Search for Truth							
9:30PM	Rock Church							
10:00PM	Revival Temple	Indy's Music Channel					Indy's Music Channel	
10:30PM	Harding St. Church							
11:00PM	Mt. Zion							
11:30PM	Prophet 3H							

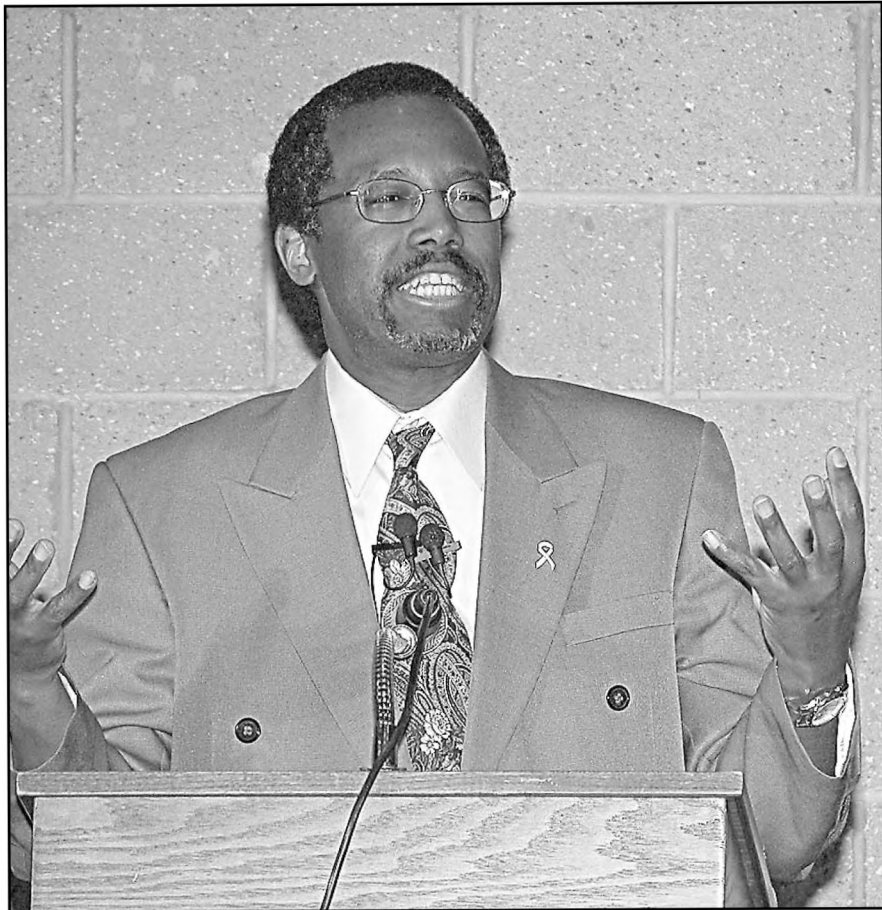




## Speaker series at Martin U.

Dr. Ben Carson, a world-renowned neurosurgeon, spoke at Martin University's Gathertorium for the Steward & Associates Speaker Series. Carson spoke about his career as a neurosurgeon and the importance of Black males to obtain an education.

Carson was surprised by one of his former patients in attendance, a 13-year-old from West Lafayette who was at risk of dying due to a brain tumor. (Photos/J. Hurst)



## COMMUNITY

► Continued from Page C8

that over lapping for them when they get out of school. We can be one on one with them and provide support. The tutorial program is vital when it comes to teaching our children."

The center, which provides mentoring and tutoring to children on Tuesday and Thursday from 5 to 7:30 p.m. has been in place for several years, though many in the community do not know it exists.

"We provide tutorial assistance in math, reading, language arts, social studies, anything that the student has for homework. We have qualified tutors, volunteers, home school advisors, parents and grandparents," Hudson said. "We also provide a nutritious meal because I believe learning and nutrition has a direct correlation, and they have activities. The schools provide transportation to and from the center."

Though the Outreach Center is up and running Hudson says help is needed to keep it going. The more children that attend, the more volunteers and support are needed.

"We want to have a positive impact on the kids but we need help from everybody. We need more positive mentors to come into the center for our young people to see the other side of the track," Hudson said. "The other day I had a fourth grader tell me that he was getting ready to drop out of school and I thought to myself, what can I do? Or what can we do?"

"If the greater community could just take hold to where we are and have the burning and desire to help a child make it to the next level it would make a world of difference."

For more information on the Brightwood/Forest Manor Outreach Office or Center call (317) 562-4097.

## SETTLES

► Continued from Page C8

tion changed in 1972, when he gained employment as a pilot with the former Eastern Airlines. After 15 years with the airline, Settles' employment ended with Eastern's strike and subsequent bankruptcy.

"I took a job driving a taxi for two years, waiting for another job with the airlines to come along," Settles admitted. "I needed to whatever it took, as a single parent, to raise and support my two sons.

A big break for Settles came in 1995 when ATA Airlines hired him as a pilot on a Boeing 727 jet. Within five years, he was promoted to captain, and began flying a Boeing 757. But keeping within the guidelines of the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), the 60-year-old man was forced to retire. "Yes, I was forced out, because under FAA regulations, no airline pilot over the age of 60 can operate a commercial aircraft within the United States," Settles noted. "I did not even receive a pension."

Settles expects to complete the final edit of his book soon, after which his search will be begin for a publisher. Further, he is available for work in communications (written and verbal), public relations, or in areas of media. To contact him about book publication or a job, call 941-587-7608.



Brian Settles

## Five generations



Left to right: (Back row) Veronica Crabtree, Belinda Preer, (front row) Felicia Strong, Arnell White and Ashley Harris are pictured together to commemorate five generations of a family. Harris, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother and great-great grandmother, wanted all five generations in a picture while they all had the chance.



Gustava Tudor recently celebrated her 93<sup>rd</sup> birthday with five generations of family. Tudor (front right) is joined with (counter clockwise from right) her daughter Kay Blane; granddaughter Portia Dixon; great granddaughter Jamesetta Hall, and great-great grandson Dominique Ralford.

## Art & Soul?

February 2005 at the ArtsGarden

A Month-long Celebration of African-American Art and Artists in Indiana

- Feb. 18 12:15 p.m. - Caribbean Consort Steel Band - Go island-hopping with the steel drum sounds of Trinidad, Tobago, and Jamaica.
- Feb. 19 1 p.m. - Ilibada Dance Company - Explore the history of popular African-American dance styles with this group of youngsters, ages 7 to 17.
- Feb. 22 12:15 p.m. - United States Colored Troops - Discover history through the incredible stories of three African-American Civil War soldiers from Indiana.
- Feb. 23 12:15 p.m. - The Hampton Sisters - Explore jazz, blues, and pop music from the 1930s through the 1970s with this legendary group.
- Feb. 24 12:15 p.m. - Xangwe Academy of West African Drum and Dance - Delight in the rhythms of traditional drumming, dancing, and storytelling.
- 12:45 p.m. - Asante Children's Theatre - Learn about the history of jazz through this musical revue.



For a complete schedule of events, visit [www.indyarts.org](http://www.indyarts.org) or call the Arts Council at 317.631.3301. All "Art & Soul at the ArtsGarden" events are free and open to the public. Sponsored by the Arts Council of Indianapolis. Funded in part by Lilly Endowment Inc.

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**Saturday  
February 26, 2005**

12:00 and 2:30 p.m.  
(Reception at 4:00 p.m.)

### Tickets

Adult \$10.00 for play  
\$15.00 for play and reception

Youth under 17 - \$5.00 for play  
\$10.00 for play and reception

Discount for Groups of 10 or more  
General Admission seating

For tickets call  
The PlayHouse 908-0528 or  
Madame Walker Theatre 236-2099  
617 Indiana Avenue

[www.nicolekearneycooper.com](http://www.nicolekearneycooper.com)

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## Experience the NEW IMA from the inside out... become a volunteer

Spend some time in the gardens, help in one of the shops, greet and direct visitors or work a special event... whatever your interest and schedule, the New IMA has a volunteer opportunity for you. Come learn about all the ways you can get involved at the IMA's volunteer fair.

For more information, contact the IMA volunteer coordinator at 317-923-1331, ext. 114

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 26  
10 A.M.-2 P.M.  
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PARENTING TIPS

FROM THE DESK  
OF JADA

Babies learn  
words long  
before speaking

From HealthDay News

Children less than 1 year old are already learning to match up words with common objects, according to a new study.

In the study, an adult spoke simple words - "fish" or "apple," for example - and watched as infants turned to look at images of exactly those objects, indicating they had already learned the word's meaning.

Only children who had been exposed to structured language learning through their parents were able to recognize the words, however.

"(Parents) should be aware that there may be no 'lower limit' to the age at which their children are able to learn new words," researcher Graham Schafer, of the University of Reading in the United Kingdom, said in a prepared statement.

The study appears in the latest issue of Child Development.

Schafer's findings contradict the current belief held by many educators and researchers that children aren't able to learn specific words until they're well into their second year.

He said the findings suggest that what's considered "formal" learning of words may be under way in children long before they actually start to speak.

The study included 52 9-month-old babies. Their parents were instructed to show pictures of common objects such as apples, fish and chairs to the children during simple games four times a week for up to 10 minutes a session.

The games involved naming and pointing, sorting and identifying objects that didn't belong with others.

Three months into the study, the children were given a test of word understanding. They were each shown pairs of pictures and asked to identify one of them based on what the researcher said.

For example, the researcher might instruct the child to look at a picture of a fish while holding a picture of a fish and an apple. The children were scored on whether they looked at the correct picture.

The children who'd been through the training sessions with their parents looked at the correct pictures. Untrained children in a control group weren't successful.

"This was notable because in the test, the pictures, voices and the context were all new to the children. So we can conclude that the children who had taken part in the games with their parents had learned these particular words, and not in a way linked to a special context," Schafer said.

Based on the findings, "it appears that young children may understand word use more flexibly than scientists and parents have previously thought," he said. The findings also suggest that "parents should definitely talk to their young children, even more than they may already do," Schafer added.

*The American Speech-Language-Hearing Association offers tips on how to encourage speech and language development in children.*



By ERICKA P. THOMPSON  
Staff Writer

The question how can continuously looms over the Martindale/Forest Manor community. How can the community become involved and stay involved?

How can we save children's lives?

How can we get the children to understand the importance of getting an education?

How can we impact a child's

life?

The answer seems easy - simply reach out to them.

The Brightwood/Forest Manor Outreach Office, located in Perry Township is trying to do just that.

"The Outreach Office began because we wanted to take the school district into the community," said Vanessa Peterson, director of human relations for Perry Township. "We wanted to give students a place with the name of MSD Perry Township to

come in and participate in after school activities. It's also an opportunity for parents. We offer parent conferences and meetings at the Outreach Office."

Students in Perry Township schools from the Brightwood/Forest Manor neighborhood travel 18 to 20 miles from home each day. Peterson believes that the office opened the eyes of administrators, teachers and counselors to what the students were going through in their neighborhoods and inside their homes.

"People need to know where students come from," she said. "It's very important and very critical if you're teaching students that you know where they live. This also allows them to come in and be a part of where they live. I believe it helps because it lets the students share where they live."

The lone after school program of the Outreach Office is the Martindale/Forest Manor Outreach Center, which is located inside of Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church, 3801 Forest Manor

Ave.

Shirley Hudson, coordinator of the Outreach Office believes that the Outreach Center can change the lives of the children who attend.

"A lot of our children are in at-risk communities and are at-risk for falling through the cracks. A lot of the children that come into the program can not read," she said. "It's very important for us to be here as

► See COMMUNITY, Page C7

From streets of Indiana to cockpit to writer's table,  
retired Capt. Brian Settles prevails

By ANNETTE L. ANDERSON  
Recorder Correspondent

How does an adopted bi-racial kid from the streets of Muncie go on to complete 199 successful flying missions in the Republic of Vietnam as a co-pilot with the F-4 Phantom Fighter Bomber? The answer is that retired Capt. Brian Settles is an extraordinary person, a man of courage, driving ambition and a will to succeed.

A former guest on Oprah's talk show, along with childhood friend Dr. Gregory Howard Williams, Settles is presently writing a book tentively titled A Pilot's Confession. Williams is the author of the book Life on the Color Line. According to Settles, his book deals with the issue of hypocrisy of male infidelity in a very vivid descriptive manner. Additionally, it describes the struggles he

encountered as a bi-racial child growing up in Muncie, and moreover, one of the few accounts of a "Black" man as a fighter pilot who survived Vietnam.

"I knew that if I survived the war, I would need to write about my experiences," Settles commented. Settles has earned a wealth of knowledge and education in various areas, which includes a major in Spanish for secondary education and a minor in English and ROTC, as an undergraduate at Ball State University.

After completing his officer commission as a second lieutenant from ROTC, he then went on to Air Force pilot training at Laredo Air Force Base in Texas. While in the Air Force, he also earned a master's degree in international relations, with a concentration in third world politics, from the University of Southern California.

Another longtime friend of Settles had this to say about the much-accomplished man. "We have remained friends over a span of 45 years, with our first meeting at Ball State," remembered Raymond Satterfield. "Brian impressed me as a very gifted student and athlete. He is very well rounded, totally committed to any task before him. His humility, intellect, and perseverance are qualities which make him a great role model for people of all ages and color." Satterfield is the special assistant to Rufus (Bud) Myers, executive director for the Indianapolis Housing Agency.

A former Muncie Central High School Bearcat, Settles knew his way around the basketball court and the football field. He was also a member of the Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, while at Ball State. But his direc-

► See SETTLES, Page C7



Retired captain Brian Settles trades his airplane control panel for a keyboard, as he works on his much-anticipated book *A Pilot's Confession*.



Black History  
celebration

Above left: Park Tudor Multicultural Association held its third annual Black History Month Celebration at Park Tudor Commons. The Park Tudor Gospel Choir sings the Black national anthem, "Lift Every Voice and Sing."

Above: Tony Dungy, head coach of the Indianapolis Colts, speaks at the event. Dungy was the featured guest speaker.

Left: The libada Dance Company performs a dance number. (Photos/J. Hurst)

Samoas Girl  
Scout cookie  
celebrates  
30 years

Special to The Recorder

It seems hard to believe that Samoas are turning 30 this year! From 1975-2004, Girl Scouts have sold an estimated 450 million packages of Samoas.

The Samoa is a tender vanilla cookie, covered with caramel on top and bottom, and then rolled in toasted coconut, and striped with a rich chocolate coating. Currently, Samoas account for nearly 20 percent of the Girl Scout cookie sales.

Samoas have been a large part of the Girl Scout cookie activity success, and in turn have empowered girls to reach their goals, travel to faraway destinations, and participate in life-changing Girl Scout experiences.

For the past 30 years, Samoas have also helped councils to improve camps, acquire new camp property and expand program activities to reach more girls, and to teach more girls those essential life skills that last beyond cookie season.

Orders for Samoas are currently being taken and they will be delivered now through mid-March. The cost is still only \$3 per package.

Girl Scout cookies may be ordered directly from participating Girl Scouts or by calling the cookie hotline at (317) 924-2949.



Classified • Memoriams • Sports

# Business

D SECTION

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2005

THE INDIANAPOLIS  
**Recorder**  
www.indianapolisrecorder.com

## Workplace drug abuse on the rise

By **ERICKA C. WHEELER**  
Staff Writer

Drug abuse is turing into a bigger epidemic than what is being reported. Over a one-year span, \$81 billion of productivity among American businesses was lost.

According to the U.S. Department of Labor businesses have succumbed to nearly \$44 billion from drug abuser illnesses and \$37 billion due to premature death.

"Substance abuse needs to be addressed literally in all sectors of society," said Gary Smith, executive director of Narconon Arrowhead, a leader in private drug rehabilitation and education programming. "That is why we work not just with individuals, but coalitions, churches, schools, unions and corporations large and small."

Among the various drug abusers, those who are employed as workers that prepare food, waiters, waitresses, bartenders, construction workers and transportation movers are leading in drug abuse and alcohol consumption often before work which may linger on during labor hours.

Drug users stand out among others as they are more likely to be absent numerous days throughout the month. And while on the job, and are under the influence, complain of work conditions, express family problems and are less productive causing accidents and far too often fatalities.

"Often times the consuming of drugs or alcohol does not occur during work hours but more so before work or the night before and workers are still not in the right frame of mind," said Luke Catton, director of introductory services for Narconon Arrowhead. "Then you have dropped things, slow productivity, unclear conversations and the major thing is accidents."

A stunning 77 percent of current illegal drug users in the country are employed accounting for nearly 7 percent of the entire labor force.

"When you have multiple accidents, not only is a company

► See **WORKPLACE**, Page D2

## Extreme homeownership makeover



Historically white men in America were the majority homeowners. Now single women represent 56 percent. Information provided by MIBOR.

## Single women increasingly purchasing homes

Location a No. 1 priority when buying a new home in Indy

By **ERICKA C. WHEELER**  
Staff Writer

### Second of two stories

Single women are becoming a power force in homeownership – representing 56 percent of American homebuyers – the second largest group in the United States.

Decades before the new millennium, homeownership was represented by only white men. During that time, it was unheard of for women or even those of color to own or rent a home.

With the changing face of homeownership, single-Black females are increasingly purchasing homes at a faster rate, than their male counterparts. Women homeowners find that waiting until they are married to purchase a home is not necessary.

"It was a waste for me to pay out money for an apartment, when I can own my own home," said Niquelle Allen, 27, who purchased her Lawrence Township home last year. "It wasn't until last year that I was able to purchase a home being an undergraduate. It is peace of mind."

According to a study conducted by Metropolitan Indiana Board of Realtors (MIBOR) just last year, nearly 25 percent of Hoosier homeowners

were single women.

"Many professional single women are financially secure and see tax advantage in homeownership. And many are postponing marriage or family until later in their lives," said Vicki Kenworthy Wright, a Realtor with the Carpenter real estate firm. "Also with so many different styles, sizes and prices of houses in the market today, it is easy for a single person to find just the right home to meet their needs. There is affordable housing in all parts of the metropolitan Indianapolis area."

While homeownership in Indianapolis continues to increase, Hoosiers see location of the property as No. 1 when considering homeownership. More Hoosiers are opting to purchase or build homes in the suburban areas of the metropolitan area. Sixty-nine percent of homeowners purchased a home in a suburban area last year.

"Neighborhood quality is important, but every buyer has his or her own personal idea of what makes a good neighborhood," Wright said. "For some, it is style of housing, trees, other children in the area, close neighbors, or no neighbors. Others are more specific, and feel they

► See **WOMEN**, Page D2

### Women and homeownership

- By 2010, women-headed households are projected to increase to nearly 31 million—close to 28 percent of all households in the country.

- In 2003, 21 percent of home purchases were made by single women, up from 18 percent in 1997.

- Single females accounted for 13 percent of all second/vacation homebuyers in 2001 and 2003.

- Single women purchased approximately one in five homes in 2003, while single men purchased one in 10.

- More women (15.5 million) than men (11.8 million) lived alone in 2003.

Statistics compiled by Sears Roebuck & Co.

## ON THE BUSINESS SCENE



Brenda Walls (seated) exchanges information about the company's, Vital Age's health care product as marketing affiliate Sally Haskin restocks the booth. (Photos/J. Hurst)

## Black Business Profile

**Full name of business:**  
Basket Case

**Address:**  
2803 Meridian St.,  
Anderson, IN 46016

**E-mail:**  
bas\_ketcase@yahoo.com

**Phone:**  
(765) 643-0163

**Year opened:**  
October 2004

**Owner:**  
Keisha Parker

**Number of paid employees:**  
0

### Product/services:

At Basket Case we create small, medium and large gift baskets for all occasions. We provide a catalog to all of our customers where they are able to choose the items in which they want the basket to contain. We are sure to include each basket contains a recipe. The quality in product selection for each basket and the basket itself really stands out.

### Significant business advances/achievements:

After establishing Basket Case in October of 2004, I was pleasantly surprised that there was a large amount of people that placed orders for holiday baskets in December. When I saw the increase in demand for the basket showed me the importance that my business has in the community.

### Future goals:

As a short-term goal, I plan to purchase a storefront within five to six years of business.

### Why did you start the business and how has it grown?

I have always had an interest in becoming an entrepreneur. I have been creating gift baskets for six to seven years and decided that I would open a business doing so. I have been surprised at how much advertisement you can do in such a short time. I have learned a lot about small business ownership and plan to continue learning and developing Basket Case into a bigger company.

### What are some of the obstacles you faced and how did you overcome them?

The main obstacle that I faced was obtaining the right information in order to start the company. I overcame that by attending Small Business Administration workshops and talking to people that have done what I am embarking upon.

### Who does your business best serve and why?

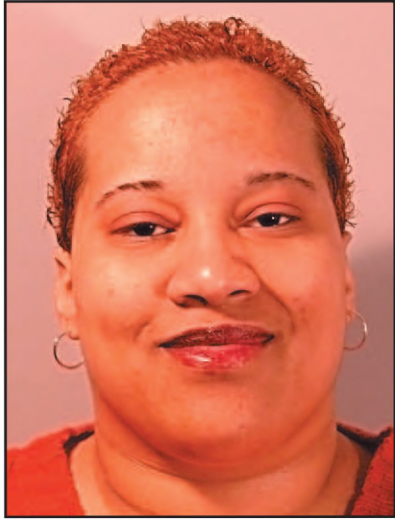
Basket Case best serves all people because everyone gives a gift at some point in their life to someone and that is where I come in. I provide a convenient and personalized way to say just what you want without actually saying anything.

### How has your experience helped to meet the needs of your clients?

My experiences thus far has taught me that networking is the key and listen to what your customers want. That is the key to a successful business. Knowing the importance of good quality materials for each basket allows me to visualize what my customers may want. I have knowledge in customer service which allows for good community between myself and the customer.

### Where did you get the name of your company and does it have any significant meaning?

My husband named my company. It doesn't have a significant meaning besides the fact that it is a very "catchy" name and will catch people's attention.



Keisha Parker



Members of the Indiana Black Vendor Association were on site at Glendale Mall selling many of the products participating businesses specialize in. During the event Yvonne Mintze (seated) discusses various types of hats Bev's Blessings offers with shopper Rosalyn Freeman.

## BLACKONOMICS

## The NAACP, chicken and waffles



By **JAMES CLINGMAN**  
For NNPA

The NAACP, the oldest and largest "civil rights" organization in this country, may be forced to change its name. Of course, most of us know its current name is National Association for the Advancement

of Colored People.

Based upon what I have recently seen and heard about our venerable organization, I'd like to make a couple of suggestions for a new name. How about the National Association for the Appreciation of Chicken Parts? Or, maybe we can name it the National Association Against Crimped Pancakes. "Colored people" are now being asked to fight against poor waffle service, and to be compassionate

toward chickens.

In case you have not heard, lawsuits have been filed against the Waffle House and a few of its franchisees, and the NAACP has joined the plaintiffs in alleging racial bias. It is obvious the NAACP is quite concerned about how we are treated at Waffle House restaurants and is determined, once again, to assure we get our day in court. (They give

► See **NAACP**, Page D2



Keisha Parker, owner of Basket Case displays one of the many baskets that she designs to specialize per order. (Photo/J. Hurst)

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**WARREN**

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## NAACP

► Continued from Page 1

us report cards on hotels to let us know which ones will treat us best, which is a comfort to some Black folks, but I would much rather have a report on how to develop and own hotels. I'm sure the Patels would agree to share their secrets with us.)

Since the waffle lawsuit will probably take a few years, I wonder what the NAACP plan is for the interim. Will it be issuing report cards on restaurants or just waiting for apologies and a payoff from Waffle House. Or, will the NAACP tell us how we can own a chain of restaurants ourselves? It sure would be great if I could stop on highways across this country and support a Black owned waffle restaurant chain.

I know the NAACP is not in the business of building businesses, but it certainly could be a strong advocate for it. After all, didn't the organization say a few years ago that the "new civil rights struggle" is economic empowerment? Protesting about how someone is treating us at their restaurants is admirable, but in 2005, in addition to protesting and suing, we should be about owning more restaurants and hotels, and supporting them as well. Even Dubya is talking about an "ownership society."

The NAACP is also on record as a supporter of humane treatment of chickens. In September 2003, Kweisi Mfume wrote a letter to the parent company of KFC complaining about how they treat chickens by stating, "... KFC has yet to eliminate some of the most egregious cruelty to chickens in the industry," and he suggested they be more humane in the raising and killing their chickens. The headline of the article reads, "NAACP head speaks up for chickens."

What can I say? I suppose it's a good cause, but for the NAACP, I don't think so. Consider how "colored people" used to kill chickens. I remember my grandparents, when it was time to eat, they would grab one of their chickens by its head and wring its neck, or they would simply place the chicken on a log and chop its head off with an axe. They fed their birds regularly and treated them pretty well, but at least one of those chicken's fate was sealed just before dinner.

What has our beloved NAACP become? It can write letters of support against the mistreatment of chickens, but fails to show up or speak out against the mistreatment of Black folks; and I am not talking about mistreatment in Waffle Houses. I mean economic

mistreatment, police brutality and murder, and mistreatment of our children, namely, the right of police officers to electrocute 7-year-olds with Tasers in Cincinnati.

It strikes out against waffle servers for their mistreatment of Black customers but leads no charge for Blacks to economically empower ourselves by investing our dollars in or own national chain of waffle houses. If the new civil rights struggle is economic empowerment, then those who make such a claim should be at the head of the pack leading us there.

The time for fighting for food service is over. Let those who are mistreated file their lawsuit, get paid, and start supporting their own businesses. Maybe some of the millions they collect from the transgressors could be invested in new Black businesses.

Chicken and waffles? I guess I could have used another play on words to describe what the NAACP is doing. For example, I could have accused it of being "chicken," afraid to go against the establishment with anything of substance; and I could use the phrase we heard so many times during the presidential campaign, "waffling" on its mission. But, I think you get the point. More importantly, I hope the NAACP gets the point.

I have never had chicken and waffles together, Roscoe's notwithstanding, but in this case they don't sound very appealing. (By the way, can anyone in L.A. tell me if Roscoe's is Black-owned?)

We have fought against so many things during the past 50 years of our civil rights struggle. Instead of trying to be accommodated by condescending white restaurant owners and giving deference to chickens, we must use much more of our interest and energy to economically empower ourselves. If we make and sell our own waffles, in our own restaurants, we can determine how we will be treated. If we raised, processed, and sold our own chickens, we could determine how they are treated. I rest my case.

*James E. Clingman, an adjunct professor at the University of Cincinnati's African American Studies department, is former editor of the Cincinnati Herald Newspaper and founder of the Greater Cincinnati African American Chamber of Commerce. His Web site is [www.blackonomics.com](http://www.blackonomics.com). He can be contacted there or by telephone at (513) 489-4132.*

## WORKPLACE

► Continued from Page 1

losing productivity, but they are also having to spend money to go back to fix the problem and hopefully catch up," said Catton.

The Federal Drug-Free Workplace Act of 1998 allows for businesses to secure a drug-free workplace by banning the use, distribution, possession or manufacturing of drugs during work hours. The law requires that businesses provide information on the drug-free business in an employee handbook or manual informing of the policy.

The federal mandate describes the types of penalties for those who violate the policy - including suspension of pay, suspension of duties, termination and allowing for only the head of the company to overturn the punishment handed down by an immediate

supervisor.

"There is not enough focus on it (drugs in the workplace) as a society. Evidence of drug abuse is prevalent and one of the ways to work on it is in the workplace," Catton said. "There are a lot of organizations that can come into a business and conduct drug educational awareness programs to their employees."

Employers that suspect employees as drug abusers may conduct various drug testing procedures including samples of sweat, hair, saliva and urine, which is the most common form of drug testing.

In the federal sector of employment, nearly 105,000 federal employees are drug users. The federal government continues to seek out ways to create drug-test procedures.

## Attorney general cautions to guard personal information

Special to The Recorder

Indiana Attorney General Steve Carter, in announcing National Consumer Protection Week, said the theme, "Identity Theft: When Fact Becomes Fiction," focuses on minimizing the risk of identity theft and how to take fast action if an identity thief strikes.

"Keeping track of your credit, safeguarding your wallet, and putting personal passwords on your bank, credit card and phone accounts can help minimize the risk of identity theft," said Carter. "Many more tips on how to cramp identity thieves are available on our Web site along with a kit to address the problems victims may encounter."

Routine transactions reveal bits of information about you - your bank and credit card account numbers; your income; your Social Security number; or your name, address, and phone numbers. If someone steals that information, and uses it to commit fraud, it's called identity theft. And that's a crime that can wreak havoc on your finances, your credit and your reputation.

The following tips can help you minimize your risk of becoming a victim of identity theft:

■ Be cautious where you leave your purse or pocketbook.  
■ Don't carry your Social Security card in your wallet or purse.

■ Order a copy of your credit report every year to monitor financial information.

■ Pay attention to billing cycles, and contact creditors when bills aren't timely.

■ Guard your mail or anything with personal information and shred mail with identifying account numbers.

■ Never give out personal banking or credit information to solicitors on the Internet or phone.

Victims of identity theft can visit the attorney general's Web site and download a copy of the ID Theft Kit that can help them clear their names. While there are many general identity theft resource guides available, this kit was specifically developed to provide assistance to Hoosiers who have been the victim of identity theft, as well as individuals in other states who had their personal information fraudulently used in the state of Indiana.

"Knowing how to safeguard information can help minimize the risk of becoming a victim of this damaging crime," Carter added.

*The attorney general's Web site can be accessed at [www.in.gov/attorneygeneral.com](http://www.in.gov/attorneygeneral.com).*

## WOMEN

► Continued from Page 1

need to be close to a particular school, business, relatives or transportation."

Allen a first-time homebuyer agrees.

"In the area where I purchased my home, there are currently \$300,000 plus homes being built," said Allen. "I feel that when I go to resell my home that the resale will be greater because the property value will still be up despite the fact that my subdivision is 10 years old."

With single women purchasing homes at a faster rate, the concerns of maintenance upkeep of the property raise many questions. In a recent survey, 94 percent of single women homeowners questioned the validity of maintenance professionals; 63 percent of these women believed they are being overcharged for the same work being provided to men.

"My Realtor was No. 1 in providing me with valuable information," said Allen. "I was concerned with performing maintenance on my home and considered purchasing a condo, but I was able to get someone to do snow removal and landscaping for my home."

From Sir Charles  
to the Edge...

GAMEPOINTS

Check out our  
Sports Section



# Meet Ralph Gilles, the Chrysler 300 designer

## From Electronic Urban Report

The hottest designer in the automotive industry today is a young, African-American designer at the Chrysler Group who is credited with overseeing some of the most stylish vehicles on the market.

These vehicles transcend race, economic and cultural lines, and are desired by hip-hop artists as well as corporate executives.

Few vehicles can claim such a following. But the freshest and most desirable products on the road today were all designed under the leadership of Ralph Gilles, who has a flair for style. He oversees Chrysler Studio 3, the workshop that created the Chrysler 300 sedan which won Motor Trend's Car of the Year, the North American "Car of the Year" and a host of other awards.

Gilles' design team also is credited with the Dodge Magnum and reinventing the Dodge Charger sedan, that will be in dealerships this June.

Without question, over the past 12 years, Gilles has risen from sketching interiors to overseeing the rebirth of bold, signature styling in the most sought after vehicles today.

"It's bringing back what's good about American cars," Gilles said. "American cars have to be about not just a great car, but also a great-looking car, and an artful car - a car that says more about transportation than just getting someone from Point A to B."

Gilles (pronounced Jill) can claim a string of design successes, and his passion for cars has not lessened. "I really, really care about these cars to the point of obsession," he said. "I have so much fun."

Early on, few would have thought that this young man from Montreal had such talent. Gilles' story is a tale of a man who had talent but was about to waste it until fate intervened. Eighteen years ago, Gilles' future looked starkly different. He was a college dropout in Montreal, living in his parents' basement, watching cartoons, eating cereal and giving his father heartburn as he struggled to find a path in life.

His Haitian immigrant parents encouraged him to find a traditional career in law, medicine or engineering. Gilles, who was born in New York City and moved to Montreal as a child, had a tough time finding his niche.

His brother was on the path to medical school and Gilles was hanging out in the basement when his brother recalled a letter an aunt sent to then Chrysler Chairman Lee Iacocca when Gilles was 14. She raved about her nephew's talented sketching of cars. A Chrysler design chief at the time replied to the letter, suggesting Gilles attend one of three design schools.

At his brother's urging, Gilles applied to the College for Creative Studies in Detroit. With a lot of work on his part he was accepted. In 1992, he earned a bachelor of science degree in transportation design. Gilles continued to pursue a master's degree in business administration at Michigan State University.

Upon receiving his bachelor's degree in 1992, Gilles joined Chrysler as a designer. In less than 10 years, at the young age of 30, he was appointed director of design for the Chrysler Group. And while viewed as one of the most influential African Americans in the auto industry, he has not let race define or limit him.

"When I started out, I didn't want favoritism," he said. "I didn't want to be accepted because of my color. My color has not really been a factor for the most part, although it's true that the intrigue of it all makes you stand out a bit, and people are really interested in what you are doing."

His passion and obsession is with designing cars that people desire. "I'm one of the few people who can say I pinch myself every day because this is exactly what I wanted," Gilles said. "The first 12 years have been pretty cool."

Granted, the first 12 have been great, but what about staying on



Ralph Gilles shown with Chrysler 300.

top of the game and not going stale? For starters, Gilles is a part-time instructor at his old school, the Center for Creative Studies. He believes that mixing young talent with experienced designers is the key to keeping the ideas fresh and

exciting.

"There's nothing fresher than a kid straight off the streets who perceives the world differently from someone who's working in a corporation," Gilles explained. "We are constantly hiring new de-

signers and with that comes freshness. Combine all that - older, experienced designers, new ones and the designers Chrysler Group gets from all over the world and you get a nice, cultural, aesthetic mix."

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## BRIEFS

### GM plans \$98 million in new equipment for Indy plant

General Motors Corp. plans to spend \$98 million over the next three years to update equipment at its Indianapolis Metal Center, according to an Associated Press report.

The company said it would install the new equipment for future product programs at the 1,700-employee plant. The equipment will include a new progressive press to stamp automotive components for GM vehicles and weld assembly systems to unite stamped components.

The new equipment will retain jobs in the plant, which opened in 1930, manager Max Miller said. In the last two years GM has invested \$72 million at the plant for several weld assembly cells and tools for product programs. Coupled with the new spending, GM has targeted almost \$171 million for the Indianapolis Metal Center since December 2002.

"This investment recognizes and rewards the hard work of the men and women here at the Indianapolis Metal Center," said United Auto Workers Local 23 Shop Chairman Jim

Gunter. "It's good news for the plant, UAW Local 23 and the community."

### City-County Councilman named to committee

City-County Councilman Lonnell "King Ro" Conley, was recently appointed to serve on the 2005 Human Development Policy and Advocacy Steering Committee for the National League of Cities (NLC). The committee addresses issues related to employment and job training, early childhood development, TANF (Temporary Assistance to Needy Families), unemployment insurance, income support programs, immigration and refugee policy, health and education, equal opportunity, and social services.

As a member of the steering committee, Conley will help conduct research, draft policy statements and actively advocate on behalf of NLC to Congress and the federal government. He will also help determine if changes or updates are needed to the human development chapter of the National Municipal Policy. Involvement in the committee allows 18,000 cities and towns to carry their message to federal officials.

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MILLER  
► Continued from Page D8

Many will remember Miller as one of the great clutch shooters of all time.

In 1995, he scored 25 points in the fourth quarter at New York in game five of the Eastern Conference Finals and he hit the game-winning three-pointer over Michael Jordan to tie the 1998 Eastern Conference Finals at 2-2.

But Miller's eight points in the final 8.9 seconds at New York in game one of the 1995 Eastern Conference Semifinals will most likely be the most memorable.

"Reggie has probably been the biggest impact player we've had in this city in the last 17, 18 years," said Walsh who drafted Miller over IU standout Steve Alford. "He has been a big part of lifting this franchise to its highest levels in the NBA. More importantly I think he's been a thorough professional on and off the court."

Jermaine O'Neal who took the ranks from Miller as the Pacers' franchise player in 2003 when he signed a 7-year contract says he'll have to pick up where Miller leaves off.

"He's had an amazing career. If he does retire we're going to lose a great leader," he said. "I've got to try and pick it up and try to walk in his footsteps."

But when Miller leaves, O'Neal says the Pacers will not be "his" team.

"I don't look at it like that. This is going to be 'our' team once Reggie leaves," he said.

"It's going to be hard to imagine this team without Reggie," said Austin Croshere who has spent his entire seven-year career alongside Miller. "He's a legend in this franchise and will not soon be forgotten."

Miller's announcement comes at a time of instability for the Pacers. The fight in Detroit Nov. 19 that caused suspensions to key players along with never-ending injuries has tested the depth and chemistry of the team.

But Carlisle says he senses that his players understand the significance of Miller's decision.

"I sense our guys understand that this is a landmark day in a lot of ways," he said. "This is a decision that now puts us 30-some games until the end of one of the great careers that we've ever seen in this league. Not to mention this franchise."

Though some may contemplate that Miller may give it one more shot, including O'Neal who says he'll try to convince him to come back for one more year, Miller insists it will not happen.

"There's no Michael Jordan thing going on," he said.

So what does the future hold for the player who's meant everything to Indiana basketball?

"I have several projects in the works," he said. "I won't have any trouble staying busy."

# Book explores how one home run changed America

By JOSHUA COHEN  
Staff Writer

There were 5,451 home runs hit in the Major Leagues in 2004, an average of 33 per day. The Major League record for most home runs by a team in one season is 264, set by the 1997 Seattle Mariners.

In 2001, Barry Bonds set the regular season home run record with 73. In Major League Baseball history, there have been over 125,000 home runs.

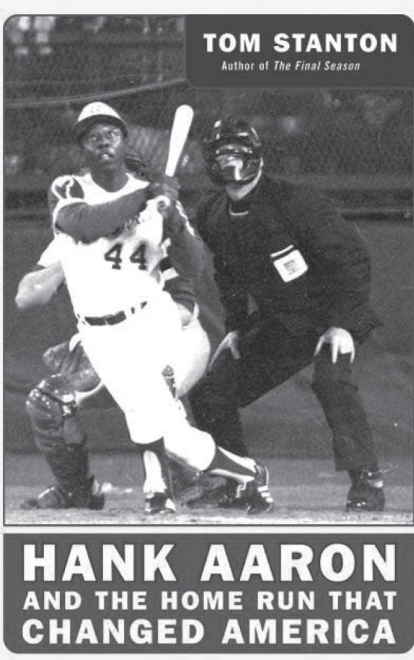
Out of all these, not one was as important as the one hit on April 8, 1974, by Hank Aaron. It was important to baseball, yes. A nearly four-decade old record was about to be broken after all. However, the implications went far beyond the numbers.

*Hank Aaron and the Home Run That Changed America*, a book by Tom Stanton, explores Aaron, his life and his baseball career and how his breaking of Babe Ruth's record impacted the country.

During his pursuit of the record of 714 home runs set by Ruth in 1935, Aaron was criticized, harassed and threatened. His children were even thought to be in danger from racist whites who did not want to see a Black man break the most sacred of baseball records.

"Across the world, 35 to 40 million people watched Hank Aaron cock his bat as (pitcher Al) Downing delivered the second pitch. Downing had wanted it to be low and outside but it sailed toward the center of the plate. Aaron uncoiled and connected. The ball rose toward left-center. A symphony of voices rose with it...Outside the ballpark, ticket-less fans huddling in the damp night air knew instantly from the thunderous explosion that Hank Aaron had broken the record."

Although the event was joyous and celebratory, the road there was scary for Aaron. He had gotten hate mail from people who didn't want to see him break the record. One letter that he later read at a prayer breakfast stated, "Hank, there are three things you can't give a nigger. A black eye, a puffed lip or a job." It was these kinds of hateful words that kept Aaron cautious and fearful, but these words also served as motivation and in the end drove him to keep at his destiny.



If you look at it as simply as possibly, Aaron's 715<sup>th</sup> home run was a small ball traveling a little over 370 feet. But in reality, Stanton explains to us why that home run exposed America for the racist place it was, and at the same time strengthened the country's resolve to combat those racist attitudes.

*The Home Run That Changed America* is a book for everyone, talking more about race relations in America than about baseball. Stanton compares Aaron's pursuit with "The Exorcist," a movie that came out a year before Aaron hit number 715.

"But perhaps it's 'The Exorcist,' the period's biggest movie, that provides a better metaphor for Hank Aaron's trial. Hank Aaron lured America's ugly demons into the light, revealing them to those who imagined them a thing of the past, and in doing so helped exorcise some of them. His ordeal provided a vivid, personal lesson for a generation of children: Racism is wrong. Through his impact on those children of the early 1970s and, indirectly on their children of the 1980s and 1990s, Hank Aaron cleared a path for the Michael Jordans and Tiger Woodses of the sporting world."

*The Home Run That Changed America* is a great book for those who were there during that time period and for those who were not, but need to know what America was like back then.

Stanton ends his book with a supposition on the different experiences other players went through while chasing their own records.

"Aaron must have watched and wondered as the country seemed to unanimously cheer Pete Rose in 1978 as he tracked Joe DiMaggio's 56-game hitting streak and again in 1985 when he eclipsed Ty Cobb's career hit total. Aaron must have felt a twinge of envy at how warmly America embraced Cal Ripken Jr., when he toppled Lou Gehrig's consecutive-game mark. Even the president came to watch. And what of Mark McGwire's glorious 1998 season? Would it not have been human for Hank Aaron to have silently shaken his head and contrasted McGwire's experience with his own?"

## GIRLS HIGH SCHOOL HOOPS

Arlington senior Porchia Green defends a shot attempt by Cathedral senior Kelly Miller during the girl's sectional tournament. Green's 26 points were not enough as Cathedral won 74-66. (Photo/J. Hurst)



## Fever signs free agent Natalie Williams

Special to The Recorder

Indiana Fever Chief Operating Officer and General Manager Kelly Krauskopf has announced the re-signing of All-Star center Natalie Williams, after her designation as a core player for the franchise.

Each WNBA team is allowed to designate up to two core players. Core player designation is allowed for unrestricted free agents only, and the designation allows the original team exclusive negotiating rights with that player. Williams, who enters her seventh WNBA season in 2005 was originally acquired by the Fever prior to the 2003 season in a post-draft trade that included teammate Coretta Brown.

She was the only member of the East All-Stars during her first Indiana season in 2003 and bears distinction as being the only player ever to play for



the West and the East teams in WNBA All-Star history. She was on the West team in 1999 and 2000, and is a three-time All-WNBA first team selection (1999, 2000, 2001).

The mother of twins and an Olympic gold medalist in 2000, Williams owns distinction as the leading rebounder in U.S. women's professional basketball

history (2,683) and the second-leading scorer (4,420). She averaged 13.4 points and 7.5 rebounds last season.

"Re-signing Natalie was a priority for our franchise," Krauskopf said. "She is a veteran player who returns strength and experience to our frontline."

Williams added, "I am extremely excited to come back to Indiana. I feel like we have some unfinished business to do. We were held back last year, short of our goals."

Williams is the first player signed during the league's free agency period, which began Feb. 1.

Other free agents include Niele Ivey, Kristen Rasmussen, Kelly Schumacher, Kate Starbird and Stephanie White.

Tamika Catchings, drafted by the Fever in the same year as Ivey and Schumacher, is already under contract through 2006.

## GAME POINTS



### Take the Bulls by the horns

By JOSHUA COHEN  
Staff Writer

Since 1998, the Chicago Bulls have not had a single winning season. Since their sixth NBA Championship, the Bulls have not made it to the playoffs. Since Michael Jordan retired (for the second time) Chicago has not won more than 30 games in one season.

That is about to change. This year, with the help of three rookies who have made an instant impact (Ben Gordon, Luol Deng and Chris Duhon) a second year player (Kirk Hinrich) and two high school draftees that are finally finding some consistency (Eddie Curry and Tyson Chandler) the Bulls are having their best post-Jordan season ever.

As of Recorder press time, the Bulls were 24-23 with 35 games left before the end of the season. Of those 35 games, only eight more are against West teams, 10 teams currently have an over .500 record and 19 are road games.

I believe a sub-.500 record will be sufficient for the East's number eight playoff slot, and maybe even the number seven position. This means a final record of 42-42 will be more than enough to make the playoffs.

To reach that mark, the Bulls would have to win 18 more games, eight on the road and 10 at home would do nicely. This is a very reachable goal for this team who, after six years of developing a losing culture is finally learning how to win again.

One of the main reasons for their turnaround is Ben Gordon. Although the Bulls have had (and lost) plenty of talent over the last few years, they have not been able to find a true clutch player. For those of you who haven't been watching this season, which I'm sure most of you haven't, Gordon is clutch. He has already had a game-winning shot (only 24 more to catch up with Jordan) and for a two-week span he was second in the entire league in fourth quarter scoring.

Now there are some who would give credit to Chicago's head coach Scott Skiles. I can't give him that distinction just yet. It's hard to tell yet if he is responsible for their turnaround, but something has got these guys playing together and doing it well. They are even playing defense, at one point holding opponents under 100 points for 26 consecutive games.

The Bulls are for real this year. They are young, they are hungry and they will make the playoffs.

### Too young for the playoffs

By ERICKA P. THOMPSON  
Staff Writer

I can be convinced of a lot of things.

With a solid argument someone could convince me that Reggie Miller is pulling our leg and he'll return for one more season, or the Fighting Illini are really the truth and won't disappoint a lot of people when they lose in the tournament.

But one thing I adamantly refuse to believe is that the Chicago Bulls with their "great" coach and "veteran" team will outlast Indiana, Philly or New Jersey and make the playoffs for the first time since 1998 when they won their last championship.

After the All-Star break, playoff spots six, seven and eight are going to be wide open. There are a lot of teams playing bad basketball right now that will pull it together and make a run.

The bad news for the Bulls in the Central Division is that they have to battle with the Pacers, a team bigger, faster, older and better.

There is no way that a team that has star power with Jermaine O'Neal, Stephen Jackson, Jamaal Tinsley and Reggie Miller is going to get ousted by Tyson Chandler, Ben Gordon, Kirk Hinrich and Luol Deng.

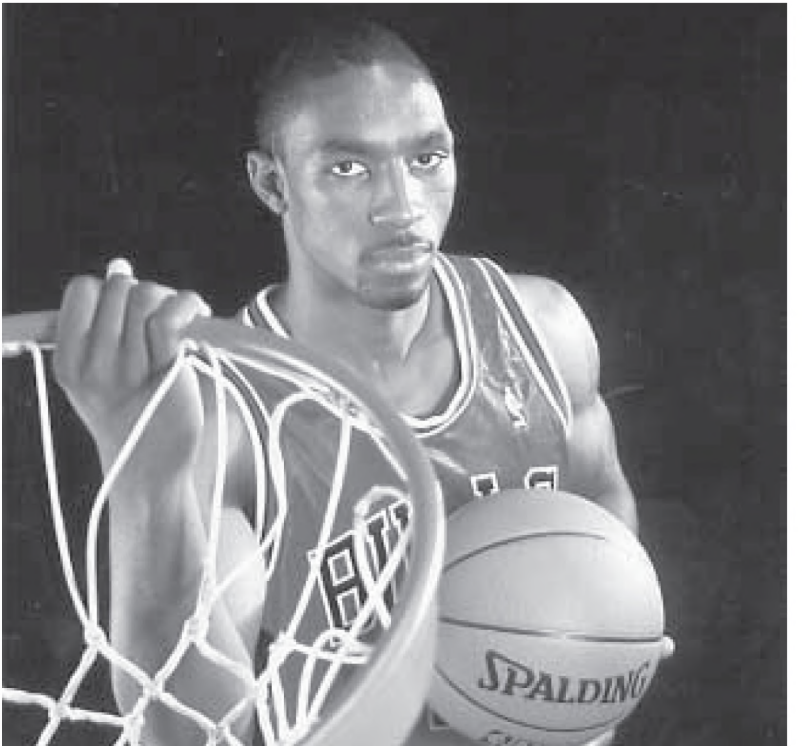
The Bulls are too wet behind the ears with five rookies and four players who haven't been in the NBA longer than four years to understand how to win in crunch time.

Although Chicago has had some impressive wins against Detroit and Dallas the second half of the season looks brutal.

They'll have to face Miami (2), Houston, San Antonio, Indiana (2), Cleveland (2), Seattle (2) and Detroit. I guarantee they'll lose all 11 games.

It's not that the Bulls aren't a talented team. I just don't believe they'll have enough stamina to win more games than Indiana, Philly, New Jersey or even Orlando after the break.

With only 24 wins, Chicago is 25 in the NBA in scoring average (tied with Indiana), last in assists and first in turnovers. These are not the statistics of a playoff contending team.

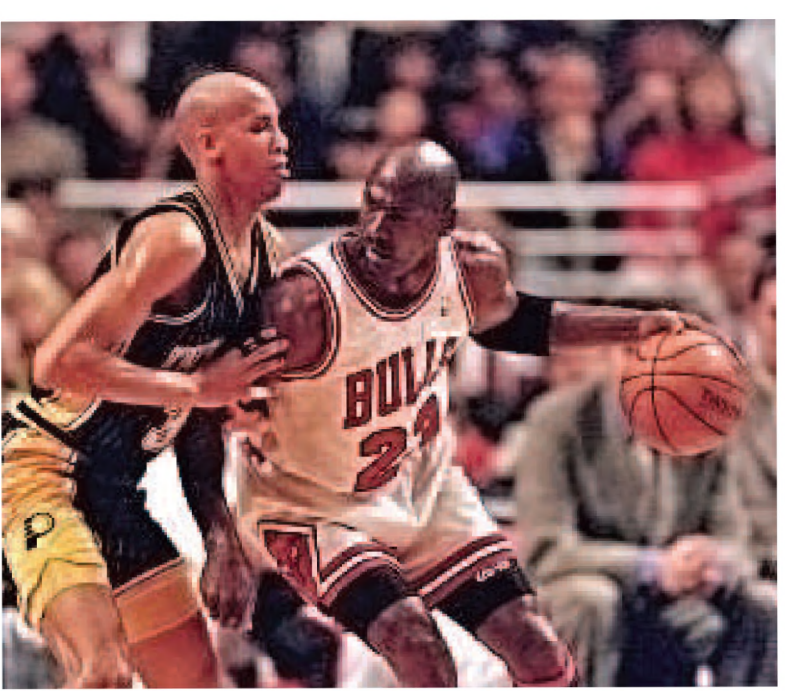


Ben Gordon



ONE OF THE GREATEST CLUTCH SHOOTERS OF ALL TIME

REGGIE MILLER



MILLER CLUTCH MOMENTS

39-footer to force over-time against Nets in Game 5 during the first round of the 2002 playoffs.

■

3-pointer over Michael Jordan to the Chicago Bulls during Game 4 of the 1998 Eastern Conference Finals.

■

25 points in fourth quarter of Game 5 against the New York Knicks during the 1994 Eastern Conference Finals.

■

8 points in 8.9 seconds to beat the Knicks during Game 1 of the Eastern Conference semis in 1995.

REGGIE MILLER CAREER STATS

Age: 39  
Height: 6-7  
Weight: 195 lbs.  
College: UCLA 87'  
Born: Aug. 24, 1965  
Experience: 18<sup>th</sup> season

Games: 1,355  
Points: 18.2  
Assists: 3.0  
Rebounds: 3.00  
Steals: 1.10  
Free throw percentage: 88.6  
Three point percentage: 39.6

Reggie Miller will retire as the Pacers all-time leader in assists and points. (Photo/W. Thomas)

By ERICKA P. THOMPSON  
Staff Writer

When the Indiana Pacers drafted Reggie Miller out of UCLA with the 11th pick in the 1987 NBA draft he was booed.

No one believed that a 6 foot 7 inch guard who barely weighed 180 pounds could become one of the 50 greatest players in the NBA, but he did.

After 18 years of hitting more three-pointers than anyone in the NBA (2,505), racking up 24,685 (and counting) points and competing in 1,355 (and counting) games Miller says he's retiring.

"I just believe it's time," he said during a press conference after a 91-83 loss to Houston. "I've always said that when I felt this organization, franchise and players were able to take that next step it would be time for me to move on. I really think the younger players, Fred (Jones), Stephen (Jackson) are able, willing bodies to carry this franchise on."

Miller informed Pacer president Donnie Walsh and coach Rick Carlisle of the news before he made it public through his sister Cheryl on TNT last week.

He said he wanted to wait until the end of the season, but after TNT made a premature announce-

ment a few weeks ago he wanted to put an end to the ongoing speculation.

"I really wasn't going to say anything all year but when (TNT reporter Craig) Seger somewhat ousted me it put me on front street," he said. "Every game after that everyone was always asking. It was almost like he forced my hand. Obviously talking with Cheryl, my parents and the rest of my family I just decided to get it over with and let's move on."

The reality of Miller's announcement hit home as he took the floor last Friday night at Conseco Fieldhouse to face Houston with a sold-out arena chanting "Reg-gie, Reg-gie," a sound that has become very familiar since his early days at Market Square Arena.


Miller's career as a Pacer is one that very few imagined it would be.

He will leave the organization as its all-time leader in assists and points, and is No. 1 in the NBA in three-pointers attempted and made.


"There's no ideal situation that I'm going to leave on," he said. "Last year would have been great, at least getting to the Eastern Conference Finals with a chance to get to the Finals. There's no ideal."

YOUR VOICE


What will you remember most about Reggie Miller?




"I will never forget when he scored eight points in the final 8.9 seconds to beat New York in the playoffs. But what I will remember most is the last shot he takes at Conseco Fieldhouse, whether he makes it or not."  
- Fred Robinson



"I've always loved to see Reggie shoot the basketball."  
- Bonnie Robinson



"His confidence and leadership with the team."  
- Andre McGaw



"I'll always remember his three-point shots and the confrontations he had with Spike Lee. Also how he brings the team together. He will be truly missed."  
- William Howard Jr.